United Nations E/HLPF/2016/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 May 2016

Original: English

High-level political forum on sustainable development
Convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
11-20 July 2016

Discussion papers on the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, submitted by major groups and other stakeholders*

Note by the Secretariat

The present document is a compilation of the written contributions of various major groups and other relevant stakeholders that have autonomously established and maintained effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290, on the theme of the high-level political forum, "Ensuring that no one is left behind".

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

16-07170 (E) 110516

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Women	3
II.	Children and Youth	8
III.	Indigenous Peoples	14
IV.	Non-Governmental Organizations	19
V.	Local Authorities	29
VI.	Workers and Trade Unions	36
VII.	Scientific and Technological Community	41
VIII.	Educational and academic entities	47
IX.	Persons with disabilities	52
X.	Volunteer groups	58
XI.	Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)	62

I. Women's Major Group

Introduction

1. The Women's Major Group (WMG) and its members are fully committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to do so while leaving no one behind, irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, caste, sexual orientation, migrant status, nationality or other status. Achieving gender equality, the realization of women's human rights and the empowerment of women are essential and cross-cutting to all of the SDGs and to actualizing a transformative agenda, rather than replicating business as usual.

2. Creative and complementary efforts are required by government, UN and civil society as we implement sustainable development in order to both ensure human rights of all and dismantle systemic inequalities. Pursuing the SDGs also carries risks if not implemented with a human rights-based approach or monitored for human rights abuses. Cases of land-grabbing for (renewable) resources, the recent murder of Berta Caceres, and the abuse of hundreds of other indigenous and women human rights defenders each year exemplify this.

3. The WMG identifies below what we are doing to support implementation, follow-up and review; the need to address systemic causes of being 'left behind'; and proposes key areas for action.

The Women's Major Group

4. The WMG, a coalition of more than 600 organizations working to advance gender equality and women's human rights across the full sustainable development agenda, is uniquely positioned to work on implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs. We are self-organized, with principles of inclusivity, respect for diversity, sensitivity to power imbalances, transparency, and regionally representative leadership. Our work is global, drawing on our reach and the expertise of regional, national and local member organizations. We are committed to a model of leaving no one behind in governance and actions and expect all other stakeholders at all levels to do the same. In that sense, the WMG is itself a means of implementation.

5. We acknowledge and appreciate the degree to which our voices have been heard in the 2030 Agenda. Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a historic mandate for change; however, we are adamant that the full agenda, and all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), are relevant to girls and women of all ages and in all their diversity. Accountability for gender equality is essential across all 17 SDGs and the implementation, follow up and review of the agenda should ensure a gender perspective throughout. This cross-cutting focus will support the holistic implementation of the agenda, and contribute to leaving no one behind.

6. Our success in terms of impact on the agenda and our own methods of work is part of a larger process of feminist movement building. We are eager to scale up our work and share our expertise on gender equality as pivotal for the SDGs and insist on the allocation of resources to achieve these goals.

7. The WMG has identified next steps for its role in implementation, follow-up and review through a strategic planning process. This includes work at global, regional and national levels on the 2030 Agenda as well as linking to other

processes; capacity building within the WMG; collaboration with diverse actors; and shadow reporting; to name a few key strategies. As rights holders, as activists and as experts, we know what is needed to transform the systems that hold women back. As non-state actors, we have experience in motivating political will and assisting states to develop accountability processes for inclusion of individuals and communities that have historically been "left behind".

8. We look forward to collaborating with member states on national reviews for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). We willingly share our knowledge and skills in measuring progress on the SDGs, and we aim to capture and to amplify the stories and gaps in implementation and review of accountability processes.

Addressing the systemic causes of 'being left behind'

9. "Tackling systemic drivers of inequality must be central to the annual review" of the 2030 Agenda, as proposed by the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM). Identifying and responding to the intertwined systemic issues of neoliberalism, fundamentalisms, militarism, racism and patriarchy, and their correlation to inequality and gender inequality, are essential for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should be an important focus of follow up and review processes at all levels, including thematic reviews.

10. The systemic drivers of inequality play out in diverse ways in different contexts, and in many cases, contribute to deepening and magnifying exploitation and exclusion. For example, the digitisation of cities under the 'smart city' focus in rapidly growing economies like China, Nigeria, India, Brazil and South Africa brings risk of leaving behind newly arrived migrants; girls and women of all ages; indigenous peoples; people of colour, youth and children; the elderly; the disabled; LGBT and gender non-conforming; and the historically subjugated and 'invisible' communities, who may not have access to appropriate technologies or the ability to participate on an equal basis with others.

11. Systemic drivers of inequality are also contributing to new and emerging trends and challenges that will have an impact on our ability to implement the 2030 Agenda and have specific effects on women and girls. These include the increasing feminisation of agriculture; the impacts of climate and of development and infrastructure undertaken in the frame of "green economy/green growth" on land and resource distribution, particularly on small and subsistence farmers (many of whom are women), indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and rural communities; the widening of inequalities as a result of economic, trade and investment rules that conflict with both Agenda 2030 and the UN Charter;[1] among others.

12. To be effective, the follow up and review processes, including the HLPF must identify and respond to shortfalls in implementation of policies; address the systems that negatively affect the lives and lived realities of all girls and women of all ages; and identify and respond to new and emerging challenges related to governance of the SDGs across all three dimensions.

[1] The UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable order stated that preferential trade agreements contravene both the supremacy clause in the UN Charter (103) and the state Responsibility to Act (R2A) to advance human rights, including the right to development. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IntOrder/Pages/Articles.aspx

Key areas of action for implementation, follow-up and review to ensure no one is left behind

13. Women are differentially impacted by the multiple problems the SDGs aim to address and will differentially benefit from progress towards the proposed goals. It is essential that women and girls be meaningfully involved, and their needs addressed, throughout the implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda. In order to ensure that women and girls are not left behind, the WMG urges the following actions:

Inclusion and participation of grassroots women's organizations in planning, implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda at the local and national level

14. It is time to embed gender focused planning at every level of government through greater participation of grassroots women's organisations in policy development and governmental review processes.

15. The participation of grassroots women's and other civil society organizations is key for the achievement of sustainable development. Grassroots groups are implementing good projects but historically have not been included in program development beyond tokenistic consultation processes. Yet their experiences can provide valuable lessons as governments consider how to develop and scale-up programs to implement the SDGs. For example, with increasing feminisation of agriculture and urban migration, women are leading more ecologically sustainable practices as farmers and food producers, and resource-sharing in the cities.

16. It will be crucial to provide grassroots women's groups and civil society organisations with adequate financing and training to address their needs and those of their communities and also to support their role as vital stakeholders in the development and implementation of policies and programs to achieve sustainable development.

17. The advice of 19 year old Berryl from Kenya sums this up quite succinctly:

> *Bringing girls and young women to the table during the discussions about the SDGs is important because girls are the experts in their own lives. Girls and young women in the communities should be taught about the SDGs and how they affect their lives so they can monitor the implementation and how well the governments are doing. I think that world leaders need to:*
>
> – *Give better support to girl advocates by providing resources and encouragement.*
>
> – *....allocate budget[s] for implementation of the SDGs, especially Goal 5 and Goal 16.*
>
> – *Invest in girls and their access to education.*
>
> *An educated, empowered girl is good not only for the family but also for the community, country and the world.*

Financing and capacity building for women's rights groups at all levels

18. The critical importance of civil society, including women's rights groups, in implementing, monitoring and ensuring accountability for the new development agenda cannot be overstated. Yet, women's organizations globally struggle to raise

the resources necessary to do their work. For example, AWID research in 2010 revealed that the median budget for 740 women's organizations all over the globe was US$20,000. This is despite evidence that women's movements are the key drivers of national and global-level action to realize women's human rights and gender equality.

19. In addition, women's priorities continue to be underrepresented in national plans and budget allocations.

20. In order address these shortfalls, governments must:

(a) Allocate and track specific funding to support women's rights groups at all levels, including through national budgets and official development assistance.

(b) Implement gender-budgeting at all levels to ensure that the differential needs of women, men, girls and boys are being adequately addressed and responded to.

(c) Ensure that women's groups benefit from opportunities for capacity building.

21. The WMG will work at national, regional and international levels to identify and strengthen existing mechanisms for flexible and rapid funding for women and feminist organizations in order to improve their capacity for effective response to ongoing issues, urgent crises and opportunities.

Gender disaggregated data to inform gender-responsive SDG implementation, budgets and monitoring

22. Gender disaggregated data is required to identify the gender gaps in resourcing and move away from tokenistic implementation of strategies by governments towards gender inclusion and well-being. Data is currently lacking and incomplete for many of the SDG Goals and targets and we have an incomplete picture of how women and girls are being impacted by the various issues the SDGs address.

23. For example, the scope and scale violence against women and girls is not captured adequately in most countries. The severity and extent of injuries, and the different forms of violence women and girls experience, including instances of femicide, is often lacking. In addition, the data that is collected is often incomplete. For example, the Demographic Household Survey (DHS), collects data only among women of reproductive age, between 15 and 49. This means that no woman 50+ who suffers from domestic violence, or girl under the age of 15 who experiences abuse, for example, is counted. They remain invisible.

24. The WMG therefore calls for:

(a) The disaggregation of data collected on all indicators on the basis of gender, age, disability, geographic location, migration status, marital status, and other relevant factors.

(b) The interpretation of data from a gender lens as a key requirement for planning and monitoring of the SDGs at national level.

(c) The full engagement and participation of constituencies and rights holders, including the most marginalized, in development of more gender-focused data collection through country census, surveys and periodic reviews.

(d) Independent data from women's organizations and other civil society constituencies to be taken into account in national reviews of progress on the SDGs.

Ensuring that the Review of 2030 Agenda Leaves No One Behind

25. The sound implementation and regular national, regional and global reviews of the SDGs by all players — civil society, governments, private sector and the communities — is essential for equality for women everywhere. We urge that the 2030 Agenda be implemented in a way that is gender-responsive, comprehensive and inclusive, and that builds on synergies between the three dimensions of sustainable development, rather than reverting to silos.

26. At the global level, the High Level Political Forum must be a venue that, in addition to addressing the systemic drivers of inequality identified above, supports collaborations with civil society; shares best practices; and holds governments, the private sector and other stakeholders, including civil society, accountable for their sustainable development and human rights commitments. It must create robust links with national and regional accountability mechanisms, particularly the Regional Economic Commissions where solid data, regional realities and consultations with CSOs can inform its work. It must also recognize the special circumstances faced by many countries, including least developed, land-locked developing and small island developing states, as well as those of conflict-affected areas and ensure that specific space is dedicated to address the specific challenges they face in implementation.

27. We urge that national reports to the HLPF set ambitious goals and incorporate lessons learned in implementation and be widely disseminated at the national level, as well as globally. In order to supplement the voluntary reports submitted by member states, we urge the HLPF to establish formal mechanisms to consider reports, including shadow reports, by women's groups and other civil society constituencies. The WMG and allies will be conducting shadow reports that vary depending on country context as a contribution to the voluntary reporting process. In addition, the HLPF should establish spaces for dialogues between countries that are reporting and major groups, civil society constituencies and rights holders through official events such as roundtables or interactive dialogues. Lessons learned from the first reviews in 2016 should strengthen the review process moving forward rather than constrain it.

28. Regional sustainable development forums have a critical role in the follow up and review architecture for Agenda 2030. Planning, implementation and follow-up mechanisms at regional level must be inclusive of all civil society; take a gender perspective; address the full agenda; and allow learning and sharing. The WMG recommends that they be used to:

(a) share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in implementation among countries with similar development backgrounds and histories;

(b) identify regional-level trends and challenges, as well as strategies to address them, including through cross-border approaches;

(c) facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation to accelerate implementation, as well as other means of implementation; and

(d) identify regional-level priorities for the HLPF. Regional reviews should have robust mechanisms for the participation of major groups, other constituencies and rights holders.

29. Effectively using the regional space prior to the global review will support increased participation, peer learning and could provide official inputs to global HLPF. Regional reviews that institutionalize space for major groups, civil society constituencies and rights holders and their contributions (shadow reports, reactions, parallel reports) will contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind, since these reports will support member states to better understand the impacts, gaps and successes of the policies in place.

30. The WMG recommends that national review processes should be undertaken regularly, 3 or 4 times before 2030. Governments should incorporate major groups, other civil society, constituencies and rights holders into the process of undertaking national level reviews, including in the processes to develop and review indicators, collect and verify data and conduct qualitative reviews. They should officially invite reports from women's organizations and other civil society groups to be submitted at national level and incorporate their findings in national reports.

Conclusion

31. The Women's Major Group sees the need for three key areas of action to ensure that the 2030 Agenda will leave no one behind, irrespective of gender, age, race, ethnicity, caste, sexual orientation, migrant status or nationality, or any other condition:

(a) Inclusion and participation of grassroots organizations in planning, implementation and monitoring of 2030 Agenda at local and national level;

(b) Financing and capacity building for women's rights groups;

(c) Gender disaggregated data to inform gender-responsive SDG implementation, budgets and monitoring.

32. Finally, women's groups must be meaningfully engaged at all levels of the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, from the national level to the global.

33. We conclude with the words of Berta Caceres, Indigenous leader and environmental activist from Honduras, which she spoke at her acceptance speech for the 2015 Goldman Prize, before she was murdered:

> *Let us wake up! Let us wake up, humankind! We are out of time. We must shake our conscience free of the rapacious capitalism, racism and patriarchy that will only assure our own self-destruction. [...] Earth — militarized, fenced in, poisoned, a place where basic rights are systematically violated — demands that we take action. Let us build societies that are able to coexist in a dignified way, in a way that protects life....*

II. Children and Youth

Introduction

34. This position paper details the formal inputs of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) to the 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development corresponding to its current theme, "Leaving No One Behind." The thematic content is structured around the national level

implications and operationalisation of the priorities identified pertaining to the institutional components and modalities of the HLPF.

Children and Youth and the SDGs

35. Children and youth development has seen significant progress since the turn of the century. However, success has not been even and in some cases, the poorest children and young people have experienced a decline in progress. Excluded groups of children and youth, such as refugees, ethnic minorities, children and young people in alternative care settings, children and youth with disabilities, indigenous children and youth, young migrants and others, are not benefiting from global progress, especially in health and learning. Such exclusion is a violation of children and youth's rights and goes against the very principle of leaving no one behind.

What Does It Mean for Children and Youth to Be Left Behind?

36. Globally, excluded children and youth have less access to quality health and education services, water, sanitation, and electricity; are more likely to experience violence and crime; those in unstable or at risk households are more likely to lose parental care and end up living in alternative settings. Particular challenges for excluded children include: birth registration, stunting, infant mortality and access to quality care and education. The furthest behind children and youth face stigmatization, discriminatory laws and policies, and unfair cultural practices and social norms. They are persecuted because of their beliefs or identities; administratively invisible or unregistered; and adversely affected by disasters related to climate change and large population movements due to conflict. As such, they may face long-term psychological damage. The exclusion and neglect of these children is a clear violation of their rights.

37. All goals affect the lives of children and youth, which means that the targets and measures must be age-sensitive, and programs and measures must be available to children and youth regardless of their status and situations. Furthermore, children's rights and special needs must be carefully integrated in the identification, design and implementation of national policies to achieve the SDGs. The indicators and reporting mechanisms must track progress and gaps to reach the furthest behind first when reporting at the national level and/or to the HLPF. Finally, governments, under the obligation of human rights treaties, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child must uphold the rights of all groups of children and youth, ensuring their progress against the SDGs in the short and long term.

Child and Youth-Centered Accountability

38. The 2030 Agenda recognizes children and youth as agents of change. Accountability is at the core of this narrative on children and youth. However, to enable them to be engaged in public and social accountability, its mechanisms need to be child and youth sensitive, as well as child and youth-led, and public officials must respectfully listen and respond. This means that children and young people need clear and predefined ways to meaningfully participate and dialogue with duty bearers, and must get relevant, age-appropriate information on matters that affect them — in language they can understand and formats they can access.

39. As implementation of the 2030 Agenda takes place at national and local levels, the primary focus of accountability must be directed there, with social accountability mechanisms having much to offer by equipping inhabitants, including children and youth, and governments to work constructively together to achieve sustainable outcomes by assessing how well States are fulfilling their responsibilities.

Data on the Situation of Children and Youth

40. Disaggregation of data and information by age and territory is essential for the monitoring of the SDGs. A key principle to ensure that this disaggregation does not leave anyone behind is to do so by different situations and exclusions such as gender, age, geography, ethnicity, disability, care status and/or social groups as appropriate. This will ensure that no group of children and youth is left behind.

41. But disaggregation of data is only possible if good data is collected, and analysed. Efforts to fill the current data gap would help to enhance the design and monitoring of dedicated policy measures while promoting inclusive development ensuring that that no child is left behind. The lack of statistics and disaggregated data by age impede that we can assess how policies reach or affect children. Data on children is mostly collected through household survey. Consequently, it is imperative that existing methods on these surveys be aligned and adapted to the SDGs and the key principles on data disaggregation recommended.

42. Thus we call for all governments and its NSOs to further invest in data collection on the situation of children and youth living in vulnerable circumstances and that a dialogue with experts and partners is opened and maintained to ensure that those children and youth that are now "invisible" in official statistics are brought to light and the provisions of the SDGs are fulfil for and with them as well.

43. Finally, we call for the promotion of innovations in technology that support participatory monitoring and accountability, and enable children and youth to collect data. When children and youth help determine what data is collected and are enabled to collect data themselves, the resulting data can be more responsive to local contexts. In the process, children and youth learn to interpret data and use it to inform action and political engagement.

Intergovernmental Space for Children in the SDGs

44. To carry out its follow up and review mandate, the HLPF will "build on existing platforms and processes, where they exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities."[2] Unlike other marginalized groups addressed in Agenda 2030, children have no existing mechanism in the ECOSOC eco-system where progress on meeting child focused goals and targets can be tracked. This is a gap that must be addressed as HLPF will have reports from several functional bodies, Forums and others which will include declarations, decisions and resolutions on various population groups, except on children which can potentially lead to children being left behind.

45. We call on the General Assembly and the ECOSOC under which auspices the HLPF meets, to facilitate an annual-intergovernmental forum on children in the

[2] Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 74, f)

SDGs that would take stock of how children are faring in SDGs implementation. This exercise would track progress, identify gaps, review best practice, and contribute to a shared learning. Furthermore, it would enable early identification of emerging issues and challenges that could be addressed in a timely fashion to help build and maintain momentum on SDGs for children.

46. Using innovation and technology, children's voices can directly and meaningfully interact with Member States. The UN's "we the people" can then truly become a reality.

National Level Engagement of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)

47. National sustainable development councils or equivalent structures are critical to the effective and coherent implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda. Such structures should integrate elements of the agenda including the SDGs, into all ministries and streams of work. As part of their institutional mechanism, the councils should integrate MGoS in all their formal deliberations, across the policy spectrum: in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and related frameworks.

48. Additionally, the guidelines and modalities of formal national reviews, at the national level should officially recognize and incorporate the shadow reports and inputs from MGoS across all thematic areas, especially since these inputs can help fill any gaps in the government's data collection, reporting and evaluation efforts. "Leaving no one behind" means that those closest to the grassroots and to the people that the 2030 Agenda targets, must be seen as partners in the important work around follow-up and review.

Child Participation in National Level Accountability

49. Despite the great benefits that child participation can bring to decision making and monitoring processes, children are often excluded due to their different capacities and ways for engagement. Therefore, it is critical to provide child friendly materials and adapt processes to the needs of children so they can help create spaces for children, especially the furthest behind, to participate in the monitoring of the goals.

50. Amongst the groups of children that should be consulted on the progress made on SDGs are: girls, children in conflict, children living in alternative care institutions, children living in poverty or children with disabilities, among others.

51. On a national level, governments should conduct regular reviews of progress with formal opportunities for all people, including children and excluded groups. The active and meaningful participation of children, and especially those children in situations of exclusion or vulnerability, will ensure more thorough analysis of the challenges they face as well as the development of more supportive and sustainable policies and strategies tailored to their needs, and national and local realities. National governments should establish and strengthen formal and informal spaces for children to engage in accountability and track how governments are performing.

52. The HLPF should ensure that children participate in its national meetings and global processes, that all reviews and meetings are open and inclusive with the participation of multi-stakeholders as well as putting in place interactive dialogue between Member States and civil society, including children and marginalized

groups. In addition, all input opportunities for the HLPF should be made available in a child friendly online portal in a timely, open and child-friendly manner.

Linkage with Other Processes in Sustainable Development

53. Greater attention must be given to the integration of other sustainable development related frameworks (the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Third Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development — Habitat III, etc.) in the context of national action plans and indicators, as well as reporting on best practices in building coherence across policy agendas. A recent good example on highlighting effective interlinkages can be borrowed from the inaugural report of the Inter-Agency Task Force report on Financing for Development.

54. This means that national implementation plans must formally seek to break silos in terms of the implementation of these frameworks, promoting the integration of the work of relevant ministries at the national level, while at the same time engaging regional and local authorities and stakeholders in the full spectrum of implementation, follow-up, and review. The HLPF is the body that can ensure the integration necessary to achieve the successful and coherent implementation of these frameworks, especially at the national level.

Science Based Reviews and Science Policy Interface (SPI)

55. The Rio+20 outcome, the HLPF, and the 2030 Agenda, all reinforce and emphasise the critical importance of promoting and implementing a science policy interface. This is meant to enhance the science-policy interface that is crucial to drive more empirically-based, data informed decision making for policy design, implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and review.

56. Policies aimed at such an approach, including national Science and Technology Roadmaps for the implementation of the 2030 agenda should recognize the value of institutional science and traditional indigenous knowledge systems. Such initiatives include action plans for coherence between science and technology roadmaps/process for different sustainable development agendas (i.e. S&T roadmap for implement of the Sendai Framework, COP21, New Urban Agenda, TFM, etc.).

57. In this regard the annual STI forum should be used as an avenue for countries to report on their progress on these fronts, to this effect, a section in the chair's summary should be dedicated to this.

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

58. The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)'s focus on identifying emerging issues is a very important component for the longer term planning on national implementation strategies and their subsequent reviews. Member states should report on and share best practices about the steps taken to address the emerging issues specific to their context. This should be included as a priority guideline for national reviews at the global and national level. In addition special attention should be given to the local level while working on emerging issues.

59. In terms of the modalities for the peer reviews of policy briefs for the GSDR itself, it should incorporate spaces for nominations by MGoS.

60. Further reporting on the implementation of SPIs should include Interventions, especially involving technologies within local contexts and capacities to upscale local innovation that promote societal progress and economic opportunities, while staying within planetary thresholds.

Technology Facilitation Mechanism and Technology Assessment

61. An enhanced interpretation of the mandate for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, should cover a broader spectrum of work that develops action plans for technology, specially associated with health and the environment to be more easily accessed for proactive and preventative measures.

62. At the same time it should develop guidelines for national level technology assessment mechanisms that use community based approaches to assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of a technology to ensure appropriate, purpose-driven, and context-specific change.

People Centered, Planet Sensitive Thematic Reviews

63. Serious cohesive reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda involves assessments of the respective trajectories of the environmental, social, and economic variables, and how they affect to each other, and in turn the SDG indicators. Tracking and monitoring these linkages would create a data driven and evidence based overview of the progress of the agenda that is mutually reinforcing and creates a natural resource usage pattern.

64. Measuring and assessing the national progress on SDGs indicators, as compared to the national ecological footprint as a ratio along with new measures of progress beyond GDP is critical to ascertain the genuine holistic national progress towards sustainable development. This analogy should also be extended to incorporate extra-territorial contributions to ecological footprints.

65. In addition, taking stock of a country's ecological footprint (through a natural capital accountability system) compared to environmental thresholds, planetary boundaries and bio capacity, should be included as a mandatory guidelines in national reviews at the global and national levels. Such an analysis should also track input oriented proactive measures like regulatory steps imposing biophysical caps on the extraction of virgin resources and measures being taken to replenish the depleted resources in the communities where the depletion took place (distance and hypothetical replenishments through credits and offsets do not account for real replenishments). The structure of such an analysis can be borrowed from the work of the Secretary General's scientific advisory board, whose terms of reference (TORs) includes actions points on creating global assessments of critical environmental thresholds.

Voluntary Commitments and Partnerships

66. The voluntary Commitments and their reporting are only a basic steps to achieve truly inclusive "Partnerships" leaving no one behind. Every form of partnership, including those making voluntary commitments, should be held accountable in a systematic manner through institutional mechanisms such as the registry of commitments (one of the outcomes of Rio+20). Failure to effectively do so should result in Any partnerships should go through ex ante and ex post

community based assessment and be assessed for its economic, social, and environmental aspects.

67. To ensure the effectiveness of partnerships, partnership activities have to be reported corresponding to their specifically related areas and indicators of the SDGs and related frameworks. In order to get a genuine picture of the contributions of the partnerships, the reporting of process should also include the trade-offs between different indicators of the respective sustainable development indicators.

Conclusion

68. Children and youth surely have a role to play in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. As has been made clear, leaving no one behind means that children and youth must not only be lifted up by the SDGs, but seen as partners in implementation. In addition, their view span thematic areas and institutional arrangements beyond their own demographic. A national and global review process that is rights based, people centred, planet sensitive, evidence based, and participatory is a basic minimum. Fifteen years of success requires all stakeholder to be involved. Surely, those most closely associated with future generations must be viewed as the backbone of the framework.

III. Indigenous Peoples

Introduction

69. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) cautiously welcomes the decision of Member States and the office of the President of the ECOSOC on the proposed theme of the High Level Political Forum, "Ensuring that No One is left behind". The theme is relevant for Indigenous Peoples who are often included among the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged. However, it must be clear from the outset that the 2030 Agenda still treats Indigenous Peoples more as recipients of development than active agents and drivers of change.

70. While Indigenous Peoples are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups around the world, they are also active participants and partners who are making important contributions to sustainable development. Indigenous Peoples are often identified as custodians of many of the planet's most biologically diverse areas, verifiably holding a wealth of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices on ecosystem management and technologies, traditional health systems and medicinal plants; agricultural production and food systems, local crops and seeds. Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women, also have a proven track record of responsible management of natural resources in forests, deserts, tundra, and small islands. While these realities are increasingly recognized among mainstream sectors, Indigenous Peoples seldom share in the benefits of the commercialization of their knowledge.

71. Further, contributions of Indigenous Peoples to sustainable development should not only be recognized and respected, but whenever possible, celebrated as models of good practices with the potential to benefit all mankind. As active agents and drivers of change Indigenous Peoples are an important part of the solution toward the implementation of the SDGs and this should be reflected in the monitoring and review envisaged for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable

Development (HLPF). To ensure that "no one is left behind" in the 2030 Agenda, the advice of UN mandate holders and experts on Indigenous Peoples issues is clear — the special situations of Indigenous Peoples must be addressed and their right to determine their own visions of sustainable development must be upheld.

Role of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

72. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, in his report entitled "Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level" notes that Heads of State and Government decided that all reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be "open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders".[3] The Secretary-General also added "It is critical to engage major groups and other stakeholders throughout the review process. The Secretary-General recognized that "it will thus be beneficial to the review that governments ensure inclusiveness and participation through the appropriate mechanisms. Progress in doing so could also be highlighted in national reviews at the HLPF".

73. UN Member States developed the SDGs in a broad consultative process that included unprecedented engagement with Major Groups and other stakeholders. In the spirit of partnership, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group expects the mandated, broad engagement process to translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF will play a critical role in monitoring and following up on the progress towards the SDGs — including their targets, indicators and means of implementation.

Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the HLPF as Rights Holders

74. As a result of its participatory experience within the process to date, the IPMG has concerns moving forward. In 2014, for example, two thirds of the speaking slots were allocated to representatives of the business and industry, leaving only one third of the slots to the remaining 8 Major Groups including Indigenous Peoples and other Stakeholders. Within this reality, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group was allocated only one speaking opportunity throughout the entire 2 weeks of the HLPF events.[4] Following the HLPF, Major Groups representatives addressed their concerns to UN DESA and the office of the ECOSOC President. Austrian Ambassador Martin Sajik, was the ECOSOC President at the time, met separately with representatives of each Major Group for a dialogue on how to improve the HLPF and ensure transparency and participation of various stakeholders.

75. Soon after the meetings, all Major Groups were tasked with preparing papers on the role of the HLPF. The Indigenous Peoples Major Group collaborated with the NGO Major Group on a joint paper prior to the HLPF 2015. During 2015 HLPF the situation improved providing a more balanced distribution of allocated speaking

[3] See "Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level" A/70/684, 15 January 2016

[4] Dr. Myrna Cunningham, former Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a member of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group spoke as the lead discussant at the HLPF Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on "Multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments for sustainable development — ensuring accountability for all.

slots across all Major Groups, however; as in the previous year, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group was allocated only one speaking slot.[5]

76. A remaining challenge for Indigenous Peoples to meaningfully engage in the HLPF is the lack of financial resources for Indigenous Peoples to attend the HLPF and for the IPMG Organizing Partners to assist in monitoring, multi-regional coordination, dissemination of relevant information, production of additional and or complementary data, urging partners to produce national shadow reports, and facilitate active engagement in HLPF discussions and other relevant fora. While appreciated, funds for participation provided via by UN-DESA has proven to be insufficient for effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in this and related processes.

Indigenous Peoples aspirations for the future of the HLPF

77. Sustainable development based on a human rights framework needs to be the core of implementation, monitoring and review strategies of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the HLPF should be securely founded on the human rights based approach, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples as prescribed in UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO 169 and World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document. A Third Committee Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2015 also made strong recommendations related to implementation of 2030 Agenda with respect to Indigenous Peoples' rights. It stresses "the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the entities of the United Nations system to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples into development policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels, and encourages them to give due consideration to the rights of indigenous peoples in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[6]

78. Additionally, establishing a bureau of Member States with appropriate participation of various stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, which can provide guidance and political support, should strengthen the mandate and the capacity of the HLPF. A meaningful role must be ensured for all stakeholders in both its design and implementation. No goals or targets or policies on sustainable development should be implemented unless Indigenous Peoples and civil society are engaged.

79. With this in mind, the IPMG recommends that:

(a) Each United Nations Regional Commission establishes mechanisms for peer review, drawing on existing structures. The regional level would also be the appropriate forum for the discussion of particular regional challenges, policies and strategies and the development of regional cooperation.

(b) Every country adopt a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) through a participatory process that is inclusive and invites stakeholders, such as Indigenous Peoples, for substantive input.

[5] Galina Angarova of Tebtebba Foundation spoke on behalf of Indigenous Peoples at the interactive dialogue on "Changing approaches to policy making: the role of the SDGs."

[6] The Third Committee Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2015, ç).

80. On monitoring and review, reporting on SDG implementation by the National Statistical Offices should be complemented by citizen-generated data and shadow reporting produced directly by individuals, NGOs, and Indigenous Peoples organizations and institutions. It is important to ensure that the data collected is reliable, transparent, accessible, and disaggregated to reflect the differences among various groups, and must at a minimum include disaggregation by sex/gender, age, income and ethnic origin.[7] Further, progress towards disaggregation by indigenous status relevant to national realities is essential.

81. The IPMG further recommends:

(a) Disaggregated data for every SDG by including indigenous identifiers in national data censuses, household surveys and other data gathering efforts;

(b) Cross referencing the relevant commitments of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples with Agenda 2030; and

(c) Disaggregating data with a focus on education, health, basic social services, agriculture, labor statistics including traditional occupations.

82. Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) are important to highlight here. These are processes where Indigenous Peoples are able to generate information for the analysis, monitoring, and use of their community. CBMIS is geared towards community organizing, empowerment, and the realization of Indigenous Peoples' sustainable, self-determined development. Such information is crucial and should be directly fed into the official reporting. CBMIS can concurrently provide direct and timely representation of the unique perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and fill gaps in official data.

83. Special attention should also be paid to governance and partnerships for the implementation of SDGs. Here the HLPF should play a critical role in providing direction and a system-wide approach. Indigenous Peoples are becoming increasingly concerned that the United Nations promotes public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a main finance source of the SDGs. A common concern is that the PPPs would be used predominantly to leverage public financing for large industrial and infrastructure projects. Given the history of PPPs, their impact on the natural environment and on Indigenous Peoples, this concern is well founded. PPPs are responsible for devastating resource extraction and large infrastructure development projects, which have irreversible impacts on biological and cultural diversity. Here it is critical to ensure protection measures and safeguards, including free, prior and informed consent, as well as a screening mechanism for any type of a public private partnership seeking to be initiated under the banner of sustainable development.

84. An alternative is the promotion of small-scale partnerships, where small and medium enterprises (SMEs) owned and managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities', as well as other citizen-led initiatives can be supported and scaled up. Enabling the environment for local and regional partnerships is an effective way for durable and sustainable implementation. The HLPF should integrate this alternative in its emerging monitoring and review framework. In particular, the Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council can serve as a platform for drawing

[7] Indigenous Peoples have consistently called for disaggregation of data to reflect their special situations. This is most recently acknowledged in paragraph 10 in the outcome document of the High Level Plenary Meeting known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

attention to this alternative especially in areas requiring policy attention in regard to partnerships' contribution to implementation.[8]

On the proposed theme: "Ensuring that no one is left behind"

85. For Indigenous Peoples around the world, "leaving no one behind" means respecting subsistence economies and promoting non-monetary measures of well-being. For instance, the targets under SDG Goal 1 do not fully reflect the special situations of Indigenous Peoples and could be detrimental for traditional economies that are based on subsistence and harmonious relationship with natural environment. Additionally, the financial measure of $1.25/day for extreme poverty is inappropriate for Indigenous Peoples, for whom security of rights to lands, territories and resources is essential for poverty eradication. From this perspective, the linear monetary measure of poverty can contribute to further impoverishing Indigenous Peoples under the guise of the theme "leaving no one behind."

86. Further, while the IPMG and its partners have provided inputs regularly, concerns remain regarding the invisibility of Indigenous People in the developing global indicators. The invisibility of Indigenous Peoples in global indicators promotes a reductionist agenda that is unacceptable and will negatively impact the monitoring and review envisaged for the HLPF. Building upon the security of lands as essential to poverty eradication, target 1.4 on land tenure is critical for Indigenous Peoples well being. The IMPG notes the unfortunate deletion of the direct reference to Indigenous Peoples in the text of indicator 1.4.2, however; the inclusion of "type of land tenure," will facilitate data collection that encompasses all forms of land and all forms of tenure including those held by Indigenous Peoples.

87. The IPMG will continue to engage the process of developing global indicators. For example, the IPMG was represented at and participated in the New York meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs), and also attended both the second and the third IAEG meetings in Bangkok, Thailand and in Mexico City, Mexico respectively. The IPMG welcomes the adoption of the following indicators under 5.a. (5.a.1/5.a.2), which include references to "secure rights", "ownership", "by tenure type", the latter includes other forms of tenure, including collective rights, which are also important for Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, the IPMG welcomes the inclusion of two corresponding indicators that contain direct references to indigenous peoples under goals 2 (2.3.2) and 4 (4.5.1).

What is needed for Indigenous Peoples to make a meaningful contribution?

88. Evidence affirms decreasing political participatory spaces as national restrictions on non-governmental actors seek to control or curtail their activities increase around the world.[9] These restrictions, resulting in shrinking access to support funding and political space, include laws that restrict registration or association, foreign funding, anti-protest laws, etc. Additionally, 116 environmental

[8] This position is consistent with the recommendation of the Secretary-General in his report, A/70/684, para. 107.

[9] See Closing Space: Democracy and Human Rights Support Under Fire at http://carnegieendowment.org/2014/02/20/closing-space-democracy-and-human-rights-support-under-fire

activists were reported murdered globally in 2014; 40 percent of those killed were indigenous persons.[10] As stated by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "The impunity with which indigenous activists have been murdered must end. It is urgent that governments around the world [...] take immediate action to protect indigenous rights activists peacefully protesting for legal rights to their own lands and territories." This is a reality that the HLPF and other related forums should recognize and address in their monitoring and review framework.

89. Political will and financial resources are required for Indigenous Peoples to both implement the SDGs, but also to engage in national policy formulation, development of national indicators, producing additional and complementary data, producing national shadow reports, engage actively in national, regional, and HLPF discussions, or in other related fora. Much of this work is not budgeted and requires additional resources for Indigenous Peoples full and effective participation.

90. Therefore, the IPMG recommends that the Member States and the UN System increase:

(a) Political space nationally, regionally, and globally for Indigenous Peoples and civil society to operate and to express their views openly and publicly without fear of reprisals, especially with the increasing violence against environmental and human rights advocates around the world.

(b) Financial resources, both for Indigenous Peoples to implement the SDGs, but also to engage in national policy formulation, development of national indicators, producing additional and complementary data, producing national shadow reports, and engaging actively in HLPF discussions, as well as other relevant fora.

91. Both the Secretary-General and the 2030 Agenda envisage strong participation of non-state actors in UN intergovernmental forums and bodies and inclusiveness in follow-up and review at the global level during the HLPF.[11] However, if Indigenous Peoples rights are not respected and the right conditions for Indigenous Peoples inclusion and meaningful participation at the national, regional, and global levels are not put in place, there is little hope that the Post2030 Agenda will deliver positive changes to the estimated 370 million Indigenous Peoples around the world - Indigenous Peoples will be left behind.

IV. Non-Governmental Organizations

A. Non-governmental organizations

92. All members of the Major Groups of NGOs are committed to deliver fully on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Active participation of civil society organisations and other stakeholders is crucial for its success. It is historical that at the UN such a comprehensive agenda has been adopted by all Member States. This agenda has the potential to transform the global economic system. By making the

[10] See the report of Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, available at http://news.trust.org/item/20160405170026-jth2s/?source=shfb

[11] See United Nations Secretary-General's report, A/70/684, para. 67

most of this opportunity, the international community could break out of the 'business as usual' approach that left the MDGs unmet. Our governments must recognize that the implementation of the SDGs is universal and governance driven.

93. The international community and UN member States need to upscale the role of and support for civil society in implementing the SDGs, along with the need for all countries to fully engage in the 2030 Agenda. All countries need to integrate implementation both horizontally and vertically (thus across all sectors of the economy and society and across all levels of governance) and with sufficient action being undertaken and being on track to fully achieve the goals, targets and indicators.

94. The development of the nine major groups can be understood as a creative effort by the United Nations system and its Member States, with active contributions from NGOs and civil society, to bridge formal, conceptual and political gaps in the debate on how to understand the emerging and growing world of civil society and non-State actors If governments really take this new framework seriously, it requires changing our economic relations and institutions, and most critically the political will to change power relations and achieve shared collective interests, above that of the wealthy minority. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is based on human rights, justice, and common but differentiated responsibilities. It is about putting sustainability at the heart of all national and international policies and involving stakeholders at all levels. This includes ensuring that policies and strategies are relevant to all vulnerable populations. This implies policy coherence, a shift in investments, tax reform, and a redesign of finance mechanisms. It also requires removing taxes on labour to use of natural resources and financial speculation. Economic and trade systems also need to be properly regulated after decades of deregulation. We call for a fair global economic and financial system. This includes the control of international financial markets as well as the restriction of harmful speculation, tax evasion and avoidance, and the suppression of the illegal flow of capital and harmful tax competition. To do so, improved regulation of conduit banks and derivatives is needed. The transparency of financial markets must also be increased.

95. The inequality gap is reaching new extremes worldwide between individuals, social groups, regions and countries, both inter- and intra-generational. The current economic system as well as consumption and lifestyle patterns are based on massive and unlimited resource consumption and are not capable of delivering on sustainable development. Economic inequality is driven by deliberate policy choices designed to enrich the extremely wealthy while impoverishing everyone else. This is accompanied by an increased need for land for agriculture, settlements, and transportation routes, as well as an over-exploitation of natural resources.

96. It is not enough to just ensure that 'no one is left behind', but to also make sure that there are limits on the accumulation of extreme wealth. Redistribution of wealth, public access to natural resources and other basic needs is a more effective and realistic approach than continuing the failed neo liberal policies of seeking to end poverty through economic growth alone. "No-growth" models of societies need to be defined, particularly for wealthy countries. The size, quality, and functionality of ecosystems are reduced, and biodiversity as well as ecosystem services for people are lost. The squandering, exploitation, and overuse of resources (agricultural land, water cycles, forests, fishing stocks, etc.) is constantly increasing. We are by far

exceeding the planetary boundaries. As a result, many societies are losing the basis for their livelihoods or seeing their future perspectives deeply compromised. Global poverty will not be eradicated without respect for ecological limits and planetary boundaries. Overuse leads to and reinforces poverty in societies heavily dependent on natural resources. Protecting biological diversity and restoring ecosystem functionality and capacity on all levels — from a global to a local level — must therefore be one of the central pillars of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This should include sustainable availability and accessibility of, as well as the just distribution and equal access to, natural resources.

97. On 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

"We want a new global approach where the economic and financial systems are an instrument to deliver wellbeing for all, instead of only giving profit to a few. This implies going back to a real economy that is not based on debts; where trade is not an objective on its own, but a way to distribute goods and services; where labour standards and the limits of planetary boundaries that support human life are respected; where local and regional scale trade, SMEs and cooperatives are supported to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns. An economic approach where the global trading system is development-oriented and developing countries have the right to develop according to their own models". (Action for Sustainable Development — a global civil society platform)

(a) The SDGs are a step forward compared to the MDGs, both in terms of the process to develop them and in their universality, scope and ambition, and in particular their potential for tackling inequality and environmental degradation.

(b) One of the main aims of the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was to develop a comprehensive, ambitious and integrated framework, such that all three dimensions are represented, preferably within each goal area and linked to each other across the framework. This has been achieved, up to a point. It must therefore be retained, respected and reflected in the monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms that are to be set up. It will be critical to measure and ensure that progress in one area of the framework does not undermine progress elsewhere in the framework. This means that how a target is reached is as important as to whether it is reached.

(c) Civil society is committed to realising goals and targets to end poverty; foster decent labour standards; ensure quality education and life-long learning; provide public services; achieve human rights; achieve health for all; reduce inequalities; provide safe and sustainable infrastructure; champion women and girls' rights; support children and youth to ensure sustainable development, and ensure environmental and climate justice, so as to seek nature-inspired solutions to problems relating to unsustainable practices.

(d) The world is faced with numerous challenges like growing social and economic inequity, continued and increasing environmental degradation, growing resource consumption and the aftermath of the financial, economic and food crises, as well as the intensifying of climate change. Therefore, we need commitment and new solutions to tackle these issues along with achieving tax justice, eliminating tax havens, addressing the worldwide lack of human rights. Conflict and war are accompanied by growing migration and refugee movements as well as xenophobia, racism and a continuing political undermining of the right of asylum. All countries

need to meet their common but differentiated responsibilities and respect international conventions.

(e) Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is a key element of accountability for the comprehensive, ambitious and integrated framework of the 2030 Agenda. PCSD is a necessary bridge across the principles and the indivisible Goals. As a principle it prescribes that states must take into account the impact their policies and actions have on people's prospects for sustainable development, as well as the ability of other countries to realise their people's human rights within planetary boundaries. It speaks to the need for states to mitigate any potentially negative impacts reduce by reducing total environmental pressure and to provide redress for impacts that are proven to have been detrimental to groups of people or other countries.

(f) Given that up to 80% of those facing extreme poverty live in small, rural, or impoverished urban communities, Member States must provide them with the support needed to ensure that their basic needs are met, access to basic services is guaranteed, and investment in environmental protection measures is provided that includes biological waste treatment, eliminating pollution and the adoption of restorative practices that will reverse the degradation of the natural environment.

(g) Addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality and forced displacement of people is imperative. It is not enough to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees and trafficked persons but policies need to be put in place to stop the arms trade and the conflicts that lead to such situations.

(h) All member states must build its success on capacities, knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

98. On 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development: monitoring, review and accountability:

(a) As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a policy and political agenda, it is key that States are the primary duty-bearers for successful implementation. States are the bodies that decide on the rules of the game, governance and legal frameworks.

(b) For effective monitoring and accountability, all governments should urgently develop national and local strategies for the SDG implementation, including concrete, binding action plans with targets, timelines and milestones. All national sustainable development plans should include provisions to implement all relevant SDGs and not only those for which budgets, programs and frameworks already exist from the public and private sector. National budgets must include allocations for all goals. All national goals and indicators must give consideration to human rights, the social, ecological and economical dimension of sustainable development and be regularly readjusted.

(c) All Member States must strengthen existing or design new participatory processes which will enable civil society to contribute to the design and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all stages and levels and to engage in a

systematic way in monitoring, review and accountability processes. The creation of multiple participatory review mechanisms at all levels from local to regional will, therefore, be necessary in order to be inclusive of all people, including those who are the hardest to reach. Examples of such mechanisms include social audits, scorecards, surveys and online/mobile telephone polling. In this way, qualitative data will complement quantitative data. Clearly, freedom of expression, association and assembly, including freedom of the media, and full transparency and availability of information to all actors is a sine qua non for people to engage in monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

(d) The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which complements and supports the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, also calls for improved accountability in a number of areas, not least in the context of the role and responsibilities of the private sector, public-private partnerships, financial institutions, philanthropic organisations and through the transparent provision of information and data.

(e) We do not believe that reporting by Member States at the HLPF only twice over the 15 year lifetime of the 2030 Agenda is adequate. We would propose a minimum of every 5 years, along the lines of country reporting to the UN Human Rights Council.

(f) All States should be held accountable by the HLPF for whether they have set aside the requisite financial resources — "to the maximum extent possible" — for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the domestic level. Similarly, the HLPF must focus on the effort states have made to assist other states to achieve the SDGs through the Means of Implementation (MOI) and in their national context.

(g) Appropriate and ambitious indicators should be developed at all levels, which will guide the Member States in their reporting and for which they will be held accountable according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. These indicators must ensure that a focus on disparities is maintained to ensure a more equitable distribution. All countries must be expected to collect disaggregated data in order to monitor progress in closing the gaps in equality between people and countries, maintaining and improving ecosystems and staying within the fair share of the ecological footprint. Civil society must be given access to these data and vulnerable populations should also be involved in the monitoring process.

(h) All public private partnerships must be held to account in a fully transparent manner, with clear terms of reference for what is expected of all parties, which is made available to the public. Any actor that is called upon by a state to contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be held fully accountable for their part against international standards and guidelines on human rights, decent work and environmental sustainability and justice, at the very minimum. There is currently a considerable gap in effective mandatory accountability mechanisms in the area of corporate transparency and accountability.

99. On Means of Implementation (MoI) and Financing for Development (FfD):

"Developing countries lose at least $170 billion in tax revenues each year, because rich individuals and multinational companies hide vast amounts of money using tax havens. Many governments are complicit in sustaining this network. Poorer countries in particular suffer the consequences: they are deprived of funds to provide services like health and education, and to tackle poverty and extreme

inequality. Governments need to act together to force this system to end, and create a global tax system that works for the many, not the few". (Oxfam International)

(a) The Financing for Development Forum and international human rights forums play an important role in reviewing the means of implementation targets of the Agenda, and the processes must be viewed as complementary. While there are clear overlaps, the FfD agenda goes further to the systemic issues than that of the MoI in the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

(b) Domestic Resource Mobilization is a powerful tool to redistribute wealth and promote equality. This has to be done through: progressive fiscal policies and tax justice, including effective taxation of multinational corporate activities, and fighting tax evasion and avoidance by the rich, closing tax loopholes and banning tax havens. That includes the (re)introduction of progressive and socially fair tax systems and higher actual taxation of multinational corporations in particular, but also more transparency regarding wealth and poverty.

(c) Civil society is concerned about the different clauses in trade and investment agreements, which instead of promoting the development of countries undermines state sovereignty, undermines environmental standards, and violates labour rights as well as human rights.

(d) Civil society is very concerned about the privatisation of the sustainable development agenda. The private sector is not a viable alternative to the state for ensuring human rights, especially those rights related to access to basic needs and public services. Unconditional criteria are needed to ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest, especially since this is supported by public resources. Accountability obligations, transparency and effectiveness must be guaranteed where private finance sources are involved in the 2030 Agenda.

(e) Finally: We insist that the private sector and wealthy individuals stop receiving subsidies and concessions from governments and pay their due taxes. No more #PanamaPapers.

B. Together 2030

100. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms the commitment to "leave no one behind" when considering its implementation. This new concept is referred in several paragraphs (4 26, 48 and 72) and not only reflects the enormous ambition of the new framework but also demands concrete approaches from all sectors and actors to make it a reality.

101. This concept is closely tied to the commitments towards universality, equality, dignity, justice and solidarity expressed in the 2030 Agenda. It also reaffirms and gives substance to the principles of universal application — that all goals should be met by all countries, "getting to zero" "and "achieving universal access".

"Unpacking" the Concept: What is "leaving no one behind"?

102. As implementation starts, it is important that Member States "unpack" the concept of "leaving no one behind" clarifying its meaning and translating it into action-oriented and human rights based policies and programmes at all levels.

103. "Leaving no one behind" demands that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda targets all peoples, without biases or any type of discrimination, going beyond "averages" and addressing inequalities of opportunities and outcome.

104. In terms of equality, "leaving no one behind" is inherently anti-discriminatory, in directing attention to the achievement of the goals for "all segments of society" demanding the goals to be reached for everyone regardless of gender, race, caste, ethnic group, class, religion, disability, age, geographical location, sexual orientation and identity, health or any other status. This (i) reflects and reinforces the ways that many goals and targets are framed as access for all, everywhere and (ii) is closely connected to the guiding idea of equal dignity and respect that underpins universal human rights.

105. "Leaving no one behind" can be translated into providing opportunity and access for everyone to participate in decision-making processes and in the conceptualization of policies and programmes that affect their lives. This demands a meaningful and inclusive engagement of all stakeholders and at all levels; based on an enabling environment and transparent and accessible communication and information channels that favours the inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

106. This concept comes hand-in-hand with the commitments towards inclusion and participation — also reflected at the 2030 Agenda: without meaningful participation and consultation, without establishing mechanisms to hear the diversity of voices, implementation will not address the root causes of inequalities and other development challenges and will not lead to sustainable development. A world where "no one is left behind" is one with formal systems for dialogue between governments and citizens and in which all rights are indivisible, protected, promoted and fulfilled.

107. Moving beyond consultation, this concept also implies galvanizing talents, capacities, ideas, creativity and contributions of all in the implementation of the SDGs. This means a new approach where those that are considered as vulnerable or marginalized could act as agents of change and not merely as beneficiaries of policies.

108. This concept might also be understood as an affirmation of equality for all in life chances and opportunities — meaning that if no one is left behind all enjoy the same level of opportunities and chances or, when referring to the SDGs, the goals will only be considered met if met equally for everyone, everywhere. Governments should avoid narrow interpretations of this concept that consider that "no one should be left with nothing at all" as this would not promote the inclusion and transformative potential of the new Agenda.

109. The focus on the "furthest behind first" demands a new approach, starting with the marginalized, the excluded, identifying who they are, the barriers of exclusion and the mechanisms of inclusion and setting up policies and programmes tailored for this new approach.

Implementing "no one left behind"

110. Leaving no one behind should be considered regarding some aspects: (A) the implementation of the Agenda; (B) Data and Measurement and (C) Monitoring and review.

111. Moreover, only participatory approaches for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will generate the necessary ownership of the Agenda at all levels.

1. Implementation of the Agenda

Policy development

112. To leave no one behind, countries need to implement the SDGs by asking how to reach those hardest to reach, and adopting policies that are attentive to discrimination, marginalization, violence, vulnerability (including to climate change) and exclusion. This has implications for policy design — as something to be addressed in the ends and means of particular policies adopted and in screening for any unintended consequences of those policies.

113. The MDGs were framed in terms of, and measured by, a series of aggregated measures. By contrast, the principle of 'leaving no-one behind' can be viewed as a direct response to the resulting tendency for states to focus on "low hanging fruits" — that is, those most easily helped — while ignoring those hardest to reach. As a guide for policy, "Leave no-one behind" is a commitment to resist the quickest wins in an effort to reach everybody. This will demand tailored approaches as well as evaluating and updating policies continually to ensure that there are no backtracks. This is also a matter of the quality of coherence between the policies, meaning that if they leave some behind, then they should not truly count as being "coherent".

114. Prioritizing the development of policies that target the most vulnerable and marginalized is critical for governments to uphold the commitment of "reaching the furthest behind first". Mechanisms to identify what population groups are not being included in budgets, policies, services provisions and programs must be in place. It is also important to set up accessible spaces and structures that facilitates for the participation of those people and connect them with their governments. Regular consultations, direct, accessible and formal mechanisms for participation and inclusion, reaching out and feedback should be included in planning for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

115. Specific legislation should be developed and agreed to support turning global commitments into national laws and budgets, reaffirming principles (including "leaving no one behind") and allocating financial resources for the national and subnational implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The role of the Parliament is critical in this sense and civil society organisations should be consulted whenever those laws are being discussed and before their enactment.

116. Addressing interlinkages between the goals and not tackling the Goals in silos will also be key to ensuring that no one is left behind. Just one example is the link between water, sanitation and hygiene (Goal 6) and health (Goal 3): access to WASH services in health care facilities ensures quality and safe care and minimises the risk of infection for patients, caregivers, healthcare workers and surrounding communities. Another example is how access to social protection systems (Goals 1 and 10) and decent work (goal 8) by households in vulnerable situations has a direct impact in the education (goal 4), health (goal 3), nutrition (goal 2) and equal opportunities (goal 10) for their children.

Participatory implementation

117. One step to make the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development truly inclusive is establishing tools and mechanisms that promote awareness about the new Agenda — in different languages and accessible — to all.

118. The 2030 Agenda also calls for the participation of all stakeholders in its implementation, which means going beyond the actions led by governments alone. A sense of social cohesion and shared endeavour should be promoted and the SDGs are a useful tool in this regard.

119. First, participation of those furthest behind is necessary to designing and reviewing policies that truly leave no one behind. However, participation in decision-making or review is also an arena, in its own right, in which all people should be included. Without ways in which those "furthest behind" or most vulnerable or marginalized can bring attention to their experience, there is always the prospect of them being missed; and the lack of a voice and representation in relevant forums is one aspect of their vulnerability or marginalization, or one way in which they are already left behind.

120. Second, "Leave no one behind" is powerful and it can be best achieved focusing on the "furthest behind first". Participation is key to succeed with the SDGs but cannot be considered a "magic solution", especially when trying to reach the most excluded. Those are mostly "invisible", sometimes does not even officially "exist" and even if identified usually "do not have time to do anything else other than trying to survive the day. They often may not have the resources and abilities to participate although they certainly have the potential of becoming agents of their own development. New approaches will be needed to allow for their meaningful participation and active engagement.

121. Finally, discrimination is also a major issue, within society, within communities, by service providers, within the government and even within families and this has to be addressed at all levels. "Reaching the furthest behind first" requires strong leadership, clear targets, mobilization and openness to finding new ways, and to adjust policies, service, regulations and standards to the reality of the excluded. Civil society organizations play a key role supporting their governments in translating this concept into a reality.

2. Data and measurement

122. The SDGs differ from the MDGs in that the focus moves from the averages to the hardest to reach and a simple percentage of achievement will not appropriately measure success.

123. Disaggregation of data will be vital to meeting the vision of 'no one left behind'. The establishment of a working group within the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to take forward discussions around data disaggregation is a good start but also means this area (and guidance for taking forward at national level) is a work in progress. Capacity needs to be built now and continuously improved and technical support increased at a national level to ensure data disaggregation is possible and measures the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

124. Data disaggregation is crucial in making the differentiated progress of different groups within a larger population visible, so as "to ensure that no-one is left behind" (2030 Agenda, para 44). Agenda 2030 also adopts, as a guiding principle, the requirement that data must be "disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts" (para 74). The need for timely and reliable disaggregated data across the full range of SDG indicators is an important aspect of the wider idea of a "data revolution for sustainable development". Without this data, it will be hard to see who has been left behind and in what respect.

125. Disaggregation will also be required beyond the core characteristics outlined in the 2030 Agenda and this should be part of an inclusive consultation on disaggregation at all levels. For example, it is recommended that data collected under indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1 should be disaggregated by service level so that it is possible to measure improvement in access to basic water and sanitation services, to respond to the target language of 'equitable access'.

126. New and improved data collection systems must be designed and financed and existing data collection mechanisms must be rethought and improved to identify what has been left behind and why. For example, household surveys are the most common data collection systems for data on children and their living conditions, but this mechanism excludes all children not living in households (hundreds of children living in the streets, alternative care settings, etc.) and their realities are uncounted and thus, not addressed.

127. Sources of data and use of geospatial information management should be integrated into data-driven policies and mainstreamed into sustainable development planning. Participatory mapping should also be used as a tool that promotes transparency and addresses the root causes of development challenges.

3. Monitoring and review

128. "Leave no one behind" with respect to monitoring is not just a matter of data disaggregation. It is also a monitoring and accountability agenda: reviews of SDG implementation should "have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind" (para 74 e). Country reports and those of other actors should explicitly address this principle and highlight how the most furthest behind have been specifically addressed.

129. It is also key that clear multi-sectoral institutional arrangements for monitoring and review are established at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels with clear spaces and mechanisms for participation and contribution from civil society, networks and other stakeholders. A multi-sectoral approach will facilitate coalition and partnership building at the national level.

130. "Leave no one behind" should become a norm, a standard against which implementation is assessed. States should comply with this principle — in the policies they develop, and how those policies are evaluated (and say so in their national plans) — or else feel obligated to explain why they have not been able to. Where state policies, institutions, or simply aspects of progress achieved, appear to have left someone behind, there should be a clear expectation that other states highlight this at the global level (HLPF) in discussions of country reports.

The role of the HLPF in ensuring that "no one will be left behind"

131. The HLPF has an important role in setting up transparent and inclusive monitoring and review tools for the global level that facilitates the incorporation of inputs from civil society, networks and other stakeholders and creates appropriate and accessible spaces to bring the voices and representation of the most vulnerable and marginalized. A workable and effective relationship between the HLPF and vulnerable and marginalized groups will ensure that the voices of these groups are mainstreamed at the global level and take active leadership roles in stakeholders' participation.

132. The HLPF also plays a role in reinforcing global commitments and in presenting concrete recommendations for improved implementation at the national level. Linkages, best practices, and shared information need to be established between the HLPF, sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional levels to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized groups are fully included in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

133. The HLPF should exercise its coordination role and closely follow up on implementation at all levels and also promote and coordinate high-level initiatives emerging after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF should also monitor and review the work of the IAEG to ensure that the process related to the development of indicators respects the ambition of the Agenda and is linked to regional and national indicator development.

134. Mechanisms for civil society and stakeholder participation at the HLPF should be reinforced and Member States should demand reports on how the most vulnerable and marginalized are being included and are participating in the deliberations and coordination efforts. Direct efforts by Member States should be undertaken to make sure that those who are considered to be "left behind" have the opportunity to participate and contribute to the deliberations of the HLPF.

135. The HLPF is also a forum for sharing best practices and peer and mutual learning about how to design policies that "leave no one behind". It can also ensure that "leaving no one behind" is a principle not just found within individual countries' plans but in the "global partnership for sustainable development". The HLPF should serve to promote the idea of "leave no one behind" as a transformative commitment, to give it substance, and to highlight what it should mean in practice.

136. ""The next development agenda must ensure that in the future neither income nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life. This is a major new commitment to everyone on the planet who feels marginalised or excluded, and to the neediest and most vulnerable people, to make sure their concerns are addressed and that they can enjoy their human rights". (High Level Panel)"

V. Local Authorities

Introduction

137. Local and Regional Authorities warmly welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

in September 2015, particularly the adoption of a specific goal on urbanization — Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11). For us, the 2030 Agenda is an important milestone on the way to the Habitat III Conference and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

138. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires us to seek complementarities and interlinkages with other recently adopted international agendas, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Prevention and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In a rapidly urbanizing world, the New Urban Agenda is also an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

139. The capacity to develop inclusive partnerships based on the full involvement and collaboration of Major Groups and other stakeholders, in particular of the local and regional government constituency (LRGs), will also be critical to the success of the SDGs.

140. As stressed by the UN Secretary General in his Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Agenda, "many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities" (A/69/700, para 94).

141. Indeed, local and regional governments are at the forefront of tackling most of the issues addressed by the SDGs in our daily work. We have a fundamental role in ensuring the safety, security, livelihoods and wellbeing of our communities. However, in many cases, policy development at national, regional and global level does not sufficiently take into account how these policies affect sub-national levels where people live and experience global challenges. An effective review and follow-up of SDG implementation worldwide should take into consideration, not only the contributions of each country, but also the specific needs of different cities and regions, to avoid leaving anyone behind.

142. As a first stock-taking exercise assessment of what has been done so far by Members States and UN institutions, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) offers an opportunity for Major Groups and other stakeholders to contribute our experiences to "a coherent and efficient and inclusive follow-up and review system at the global level". LRGs, as one of the Major Groups, are committed to contribute our experiences and initiatives from a sub-national perspective, mobilizing our constituency and strengthening a multi-stakeholder approach by engaging citizens in a bottom-up process for the implementation of the SDGs.

143. It is with this aim in mind that the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, in collaboration with UNDP and UN Habitat, have been working on the "localization" of the SDGs, following the global consultation on localization in 2014 by the UN system.

What does the localization of the SDGs mean?

144. Localizing refers to the implementation and monitoring of SDGs at local and regional level.

145. National strategies to implement the SDGs need to take in account the territories where the main global challenges should be tackled and results delivered. Vulnerable groups often live in specific areas where poverty is concentrated. Access to food, health, education, basic services like water and sanitation and energy

should be delivered locally. Actions to ensure gender equality, create opportunities for decent jobs or innovation, promote responsible consumption and tackle climate change all need appropriate local policies that translate national strategies to local contexts.

146. In a majority of countries, LRGs have responsibilities relating to all of the SDGs, including subnational policy-making, governance and strategies to ensure implementation and delivery, monitoring and review. Elected subnational governments have the legitimacy to lead inclusive and participatory policy processes to ensure a people-centred approach to development. We are ideally placed to lead local multi-stakeholder partnerships in which public sector, civil society and business actors are involved according to their distinct competencies, capacities and resources. This is essential to create local ownership and mobilizes stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

147. National, regional and local governments should play a leading role in facilitating this process. LRGs are also well-placed to bridge the gap between higher levels of governments and civil society groups and communities, fostering a strong involvement of civil society organizations, private companies (micro, small and medium enterprises), academia and other community based organizations.

148. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda depends on public policies implemented by LRGs. To localize the SDGs, it will be necessary to create and support appropriate conditions for implementation at the subnational level, strengthening subnational initiatives and capacities.

Localizing the SDGs — Implementation at subnational level

149. *"Achieving the 2030 Agenda will require coherent systemic support, but most of the needed action on sustainable development is national, even local"*[12]

150. Subnational governments, if empowered with adequate capacities and resources, are well-positioned to harness local capacities, resources and potential to support sustainable, inclusive and sustained growth to contribute to national prosperity. Coherent and integrated national and subnational policies will be fundamental to support these processes; to build "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities", to reduce the increasing disparities between regions and urban areas, and take the important interaction among rural, urban and natural ecosystem areas into consideration.

Create an enabling environment for the implementation of the SDGs

151. Considering the strategic position of LRGs, as the level of government closest to citizens and local stakeholders, and as intermediaries between national and local levels, it will be fundamental to create and develop the necessary enabling environment to allow us play our full role in the achievement of the SDGs on the ground. The 2030 Agenda will only be achieved at subnational level if appropriate institutional architecture and governance models are established to allow a multi-stakeholder and multi-level framework.

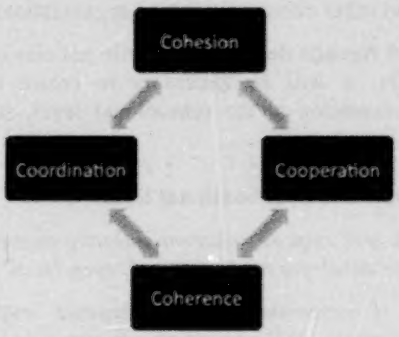
[12] IISD policy brief Follow-Up and Review for the 2030 Agenda: Bringing coherence to the work of the HLPF.

152. An effective multi-level governance framework should take into account the need for coherence, coordination, cooperation and cohesion of national and local policies. Ineffective multi-level governance can result in weak planning processes, backlogs in budget executions, higher transaction costs, economic inefficiencies and unilateral decision-making. (cf box)

153. National governments should play an important role to support the achievement of the SDGs at sub-national level and to support what LRGs and national associations of LRGs can do to align national and subnational priorities and strategies. LRGs are key partners of national governments in adapting the goals and targets at subnational levels and creating local ownership. LRGs should also provide a bottom-up link and contribute local priorities to national plans and strategies.

Effective multilevel governance — The 4C Approach

The active engagement of LRGs should be based on the 4Cs approach to ensure an effective and accountable systemic approach to achieve the SDGs and their targets. The 4Cs approach consists of:



- COHERENCE of policies across national sectoral policies. Across different themes and ministries, the ultimate goal or sustainable development should encompass coherent efforts, also keeping in mind the balance of the economic, environmental and social dimensions;
- COHESION of national and subnational plans and strategies, paying the necessary attention to specific needs of subnational regions, particularly those that lag behind, in order to ensure more integrated and balanced regional growth and social cohesion;
- COORDINATION between national and subnational level to align strategies and ensure the necessary support to action at the subnational level. Mechanisms for multi-level governance also need to be considered for coordination among regional and local governments;
- COOPERATION among all levels of government and with all stakeholders will be key to the success of the 2030 Agenda. Establishing partnerships and involving civil-society, business, academia and local communities should be at the heart of the implementation efforts of LRGs.

The organization and structure of the HLPF

154. The following inspiring experiences of multilevel governance platforms linked to the SDGs are already in place and could be taken as examples: Comisión Interinstitucional de Alto Nivel para la Implementación de los ODS, Colombia; Council for Sustainable Development in Philippines.

155. National legislation and regulations provide the frameworks within which local and regional governments act. These should either create incentives or remove barriers for sustainable development action. This is especially critical with regard to promoting "transparent and accountable institutions" and "inclusive and participatory decision-making at all levels" (Goal 16). An enabling environment in many countries will require a clearer and more appropriate distribution of responsibilities and of resources between different levels of government, improved sub-national capacities for urban, land and territorial planning and basic services delivery, and development and transfer of knowledge and technology.

156. The achievement of the SDGs, both for the implementation and the follow-up, require a high degree of policy coherence, coordination and cooperation at and among all levels of government (national, regional and local). Effective multilevel-governance will be essential to create the indispensable synergies and complementarities required for the achievement of the SDGs:

Engaging and reporting at subnational level

157. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is developing a roadmap of guiding principles and solutions to create an enabling environment for the effective implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at local and regional level. Some of the proposed actions are:

(a) Raise-awareness and ownership at subnational levels: LRG networks should promote campaigns for the "localization of the SDGs" to make SDGs better known and recognizable, and encourage their member local and regional governments to act on the 2030 Agenda. The achievement of the SDGs requires that all stakeholders and individuals understand and agree on their roles.

(b) Enabling LRG participation in the development of national strategies and institutional frameworks to facilitate the localization of the SDGs: National associations of local and regional governments have an important task in seeking to contribute to national strategies, building national consensus and calling for an enabling environment for the localization of the SDGs, including effective multilevel governance mechanisms.

(c) Getting ready to start the implementation of the SDGs at subnational level: Establish the necessary institutional and governance frameworks in local and regional governments and analyse existing local/regional plans or policy programmes to check their consistency and adequacy with the SDGs and their alignment with national goals and targets.

(d) Engage with civil-society and multi-stakeholders: Promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at subnational level. Identify needs and shared priorities within communities and territories through a participatory process. This could be particularly helpful to identify vulnerable groups and address their needs.

(e) Efficient and participatory implementation of flagship projects: Leaving no one behind will require diversified actions to address specific necessities and circumstances of each territory, city and local community. LRGs can help assess gaps and priorities of areas within countries, adapting strategies and plans to ensure that the SDGs could be achieved by benefitting all.

(f) Monitoring systems and indicators: Many LRGs have existing institutions and practices for data collection and analysis. They also could contribute to innovative and multi-stakeholder data collection for multiplication of sources, transparency, disaggregated information and focus on specificities. Although much needs to be improved, especially in terms of harmonizing methodologies to enable comparability, disaggregated data at the subnational will be required to contribute to the national monitoring and reporting systems.

(g) Best-practices and lessons learned: Reporting at subnational level will allow the identification of good experiences, the challenges and barriers faced in the local implementation. The innovative solutions by "local or regional champions" could then be of interest and even replicated by actors at the subnational level of other countries.

(h) Follow-up, national and global reporting, evaluation and capitalization of experiences: Subnational governments should contribute to the reporting and follow-up process at national and global level. Subnational levels should receive more attention in national reviews and reports mechanism. Greater visibility and specific reporting mechanisms dedicated to local and regional governments at national and global level would be a great incentive to many local and regional governments to be more deeply involved in the process.

158. The capacity of LRGs to cause policy to change on the ground should be taken into consideration in national reviews. LRGs are strategic partners in supporting balanced and inclusive territorial development at the national level, based on a strong system of cities that promote social cohesion and reduce inequalities between regions. To this end, and whenever possible, strategies and actions for implementation should be aligned and combined, in order to result in coherent and effective results in all countries. Local and regional governments can enrich exchanges at the national level by sharing our knowledge and innovative experiences.

159. In this regard, LRGs and our associations are keen on contributing and engaging in national processes of follow-up and review of the SDGs. It will be particularly important to continue to advocate for national dialogues and inclusive opportunities for local government participation. National reviews should be open to reports and inputs produced at the subnational level, not only by LRGs, but also by grassroots local communities, NGOs, think tanks, academia, media and others. These contributions could be instrumental to harness subnational disaggregated data and ensure more bottom-up monitoring and evaluation processes.

Cities and sustainable urbanization in the 2030 Agenda

160. The world has changed since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals fifteen years ago. Around 54% the world's population now live in cities and urban settlements, and this percentage is expected to increase to 66% by 2050 (UNDESA, *World Urbanization Prospects* 2014). The transformation is particularly

relevant for Africa and Asia, where 90% of urban growth will be concentrated over the coming decades.

161. Sustainable urbanization is now recognized as a crucial issue for the achievement of the SDGs. Beyond the urban Goal 11, this massive urban transformation will determine the achievement of the majority of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda (around 65% of targets and 157 indicators require urban policy responses).

162. Considering the important synergies of the SDGs with cities and territories, HLPF 2016 should be encouraged to produce a specific contribution for the upcoming Habitat III Conference.

163. The next UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17-20 October 2016, will adopt the New Urban Agenda, which should contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. During the meeting, Member States, LRGs and all stakeholders should be able to contribute and reflect on concrete actions for the implementation of the SDGs in cities and territories.

164. LRGs are leading several discussions in the preparatory process towards Habitat III. Through contributions to different policy-units, regional and thematic conferences and global hearings, the fundamental importance of including Major Groups and other stakeholders, and particularly LRGs, which will have specific responsibilities for implementation, has been confirmed.

165. In this context, the Local Authorities Major Group is involved in the aforementioned Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, a unique platform to mobilize and organize our constituency and make joint recommendations for Habitat III and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, partners of the LAMG also work in different participatory initiatives, as the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions, which brings together varied expert multi-stakeholders to prepare technical contributions on key topics of this agenda.

Contributions to the Global Reviews

166. The HLPF, as the main forum to support the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, could enable mutual learning across countries and regions through an inclusive approach that includes Major Groups and other stakeholders, as called for by the UN Secretary General in his "critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level". The Local Authorities Major Group is committed to contribute to the HLPF by reporting on the experiences of local and regional governments and our initiatives to support the national and global review of the SDGs.

167. In this context, the aim of the Local Authorities' Major Group, organized within the Global Taskforce, is to promote in-depth voluntary reviews at subnational level to contribute to the global reporting process, and thus enable the benchmarking of different strategies used by LRGs worldwide. The challenges, conclusions and case studies could be compiled and presented to the HLPF as a joint and significant contribution to this process.

168. LRG networks and associations are also exploring the feasibility of convening, ahead of future HLPFs, regular conferences on SDG implementation at the subnational level to contribute to the Global Review process, with the support of the UN and interested Member States.

169. Based on these possible actions, the Local Authorities' Major Group would like to submit for consideration our willingness to organize a first conference on SDG implementation at subnational level to contribute to the review of the theme proposed by the UN Secretary General for HLPF 2018, "Making cities sustainable and building productive capacities" (UN SG Report A/70/684, para 99).

VI. Workers and Trade Unions

The 2030 Agenda: How Social Dialogue combats inequality and ensures social cohesion[13]

The world is growing unequal

170. The new global development agenda, enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, has since the early days of its negotiation been accompanied by the slogan and ambition to "leave no one behind". For workers and the union movement this means recognising and taking action on the ever increasing inequalities people face, within and between countries.

171. Rising income inequality is no longer just an ethical issue — it has economic costs and restrains a broad-based and sustainable economic recovery. There are also serious long-term consequences. High inequality leads to low inter-generational mobility. The capture of the policy agenda by top income earners through their excessive domination of political funding in some countries is leading to a serious distortion of public policy and builds inequity into economic growth models.

172. Increases in household income inequality have been largely driven by changes in the distribution of wages and salaries, "the labour share", which account for 75% of household incomes among working-age adults. Inequality is not limited by geographical scope and is pervasive in the developed and developing world alike. While, according to the Gini coefficient, it is highest in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, income inequality within the wage share is increasing in many countries in the developed world.[14] Inequality as measured by the ratio of top to bottom deciles of income earners rose in most, albeit not all, G20 countries.[15] From the late 1980s, the increase in income inequality became more widespread, though significant differences between countries remain. Tax havens are a perverse manifestation of and further entrench income inequality and must also be exposed and completely uprooted. The existence of tax havens is not limited to Panama but

[13] This paper draws extensively from existing work; *TUAC Background Paper The Role of Collective Bargaining as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce inequality* — http://www.tuac.org/en/public/e-docs/00/00/10/6D/document_doc.phtml; *The Relevance of Social Dialogue in Development* — http://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-development

[14] http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI/countries?display=map

[15] Source: OECD Earnings Database, ILO Global Wage Database and OECD-EU Database on Emerging Economies for Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa.

prevalent in countries which profess to combat tax evasion and corruption, including the United States and the United Kingdom.

173. High and rising inequality has a significant social and economic cost. A series of papers from the IMF research department have argued that rising inequality, combined with the behaviour of financial intermediaries contributed to the financial bubble prior to 2008.[16] Other work concludes that "equality appears to be an important ingredient in promoting and sustaining growth". The current rise in inequality is increasingly at odds with established paths towards sustainable development. Leaving aside the moral case for greater equality, there is also a compelling economic case against inequality.

174. Poverty excludes millions of citizens from the mainstream economy, depriving them of the opportunity to achieve their potential. Over the past years an increasing number of governments have cut public spending, often within the context of so-called austerity measures, and ultimately failed to deliver on their obligations to ensure quality education, health care and social protection for all. This undermines social mobility and efforts to build fair, equitable and inclusive societies, and reduces the prospects for sustainable growth in the medium term.

As labour market institutions have been eroded, inequality has deepened

175. The weakening of labour market institutions is one key cause of increasing inequality. The "structural reform paradigm" employed since the 1980s had the undesirable effect of reducing the ability of labour market institutions to moderate market inequality. The proportion of workers covered by collective agreements has declined in many industrialized economies.

176. The integration of national economies into global markets and the expansion of global supply chains have intensified competition and caused leading firms to cut labour costs through restructuring, outsourcing and off-shoring. This, in turn, has increased downward pressure on wages and working conditions. In a number of countries, these changes were accompanied by the deregulation of labour markets and a rollback in policy support for protective labour market institutions and collective bargaining. These policies, together with the increased mobility of capital, have tipped bargaining power away from workers and their representatives. The model of global supply chains is based on low wages, insecure and often unsafe work. Goals to realise sustainable development have to realise decent work.

177. International labour standards are the foundation for social justice and a fair globalization. Despite widespread ratification of ILO conventions, obstacles to the effective realization of the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (ILO Convention 98) continue. Recent IMF research "confirm that the decline in unionization is strongly associated with the rise of income shares at the top" and goes on to say that this "explains about half of the 5 percentage point rise in the top 10 percent income share. Similarly, about half of the increase in the Gini of net income is driven by de-unionization."[17]

178. As pillars of social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining serve as cornerstones for reducing inequality. This is done by improving working

[16] Michael Kumhof and Romain Rancière, IMF Research Papers, 2011

[17] *Source*: Florence Jaumotte and Carolina Osorio Buitron in IMF "Finance & Development", March 2015, Vol. 52, No1

conditions and ensuring fair employment relations and innovation, but also by valorising democratic institution-building more generally. It is clear that social dialogue has a key role to play in managing societal change.

Inequality, the 2030 Agenda and the role for the social dialogue

179. The evidence that inequality is increasing in all corners of the world is overwhelming. Consequently, UN Member states and the international development community more generally, have identified inequality as one of the main and growing challenges for sustainable development. This is illustrated by Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10). The 2030 Agenda has further acknowledged that sustainable development can only be achieved through the creation of productive employment and decent work for all by enshrining it in SDG 8 respective targets of the SDGs. Fulfilling the four pillars of decent work — employment creation, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection — are crucial to ensure that "no one is left behind". In light of global trends, the importance of the social dialogue and collective bargaining cannot be understated in efforts to combat inequality. There is a need to reverse the current trends by promoting and supporting the social dialogue and the role of the social partners.

180. Social dialogue is any type of negotiation, consultation or exchange of information between representatives of employers, workers and governments on issues relating to economic and social policy. It can take place at different levels, from sectoral or inter-professional, to national and regional. It can produce different outcomes from collective agreements at enterprise level, international framework agreements, to national tripartite compacts.

181. Social dialogue requires an enabling environment and an effective institutional framework. This begins with respect for fundamental freedoms of right to association and right to collective bargaining. Representative and independent employers and workers' organisations, sound industrial relations practices, functioning labour administrations, including labour inspection, and respect for the "social partners" are the other building blocks of social dialogue.

182. With an increased orientation towards the private sector in development circles and the focus on economic growth, coupled with increasing concerns about social and income inequalities, social dialogue is indispensable. Social dialogue has a function to ensure businesses respect working conditions and consequently serves as a means to ensure accountability of businesses and private sector actors in their operations.[18] In the absence of dedicated and enforceable whistle-blower protection for workers, unions have an important role to play in exposing and identifying corrupt practices.

183. Moreover, social dialogue is a vehicle for improving system effectiveness and equity, and enhancing the quality of service provision and delivery. Workers represent an invaluable source of knowledge not only in terms of working conditions and professional needs, but, importantly, also sector-wide and system-level improvements.

[18] The study "Business Accountability FOR Development", launched in April 2015, by the ITUC-TUDCN highlights existing business accountability mechanisms in general, and puts forward specific criteria to ensure effectiveness of private sector initiatives in development. http://www.ituc-csi.org/business-accountability-for-development

184. Finally, in many post conflict situations and countries transitioning to democracy, social dialogue has proven to be a powerful tool to stabilise social relationships and pave a way forward, by bringing around the table economic and social actors and governments. Social dialogue has been at the heart of transitions to democratic and free societies in places like South Africa, Tunisia, Indonesia and many countries in the post-Soviet Eastern Europe.

The impact of social dialogue on development: highlights from country experience

185. In an effort to assess the impact of social dialogue and its development relevance at the national level, the union movement recently conducted two country case studies, in Ghana and Uruguay. Highlights of these two case studies are presented here. Each of these country experiences demonstrates how social dialogue can support the implementation of many of the SDGs.

186. The case of ***Ghana*** showed important contributions to targets within Goals 1, 8 and 10. At the national level, social dialogue manifested through tripartite consultations resulted in a 1500% increase in the national daily minimum wage over the last fifteen years. Enterprise-level bipartite dialogue which determines wages, working conditions and work organization, is covered by a legal and institutional framework based on the ILO Convention on the right to organize and collective bargaining and is enshrined in the country's constitution and labour law. In addition to improving wages and working conditions, enterprise-level social dialogue provides spaces for workers to influence the work organization and management of their enterprises, and has thus contributed to promoting positive industrial relations in the country. Social dialogue became a key element in the formulation of medium-term economic policies in Ghana, such as the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) and has in the past contributed to mitigating the effects of utility price hikes. However, a lack of comprehensively defined structures and procedures as well as external influence from international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank have restricted the positive outcomes of this type of social dialogue.

187. The case of ***Uruguay*** demonstrated the impact of social dialogue on Goals 1, 5, 8 and 10. The current format of social dialogue in the country was first introduced under harsh economic realities. As a new centre-left government came into office in 2005, the country was recovering from a deep economic crisis, with public debt exceeding 100% of the GDP, unemployment at 20% and poverty affecting one in three inhabitants of the country. The deregulatory policies pursued by previous governments had caused the weakening of trade unions and a depreciation of the minimum wage, deepening the crisis in the labour market. To counterbalance this, a new government designated social policy as an explicit priority and emphasized the importance of social dialogue. This afforded the Uruguayan trade union movement, which had a traditionally strong role in representing workers' interests, a privileged role within the dialogue on labour policy, as well as other subjects which contribute to development and social inclusion. As a result, the labour market became a key factor in the rise of the standard of living of the population, as well as in overall poverty reduction and more equitable income distribution. Real wages increased uninterruptedly for ten consecutive years, with an increase of 51.5% across the decade. The Uruguayan trade union movement, represented by the PIT.CNT, actively participated in the

National Dialogue on Social Security (NDSS) to ensure a socially conscious perspective was included in law-drafting and public policy implementation. Despite numerous disagreements between stakeholders, the outcomes of the first NDSS were promising, with a number of agreements resulting in concrete actions, such as the redesign of the unemployment benefit program and the introduction of a law on the flexibilisation of access to retirement funds. Social dialogue has continued beyond this and gave rise to a second NDSS. Currently, an invitation to participate in the discussion and management of the National Care system has been made by the current government.

188. In a context of growing relevance of "multi-stakeholder partnerships", especially with respect to the implementation of Agenda 2030, social dialogue gives examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships that have been ongoing in many countries for many decades. Valuable lessons can be drawn from this experience. Each of these case studies highlights how important social dialogue is for reinforcing the three other pillars of the Decent Work Agenda.

Implementing and monitoring the Agenda 2030 through the Social Dialogue

189. The union movement maintains that the four pillars of decent work are equally important and mutually reinforcing. Consequently, any goal or target related to the decent work agenda will not be fulfilled unless all dimensions are realized, including social dialogue. It is notable that social dialogue is nowhere explicitly referred to in the 2030 Agenda, but is nevertheless a critical element for achieving decent work (for goal 8 but also many other goals, 1, 5, 10 and 16 for example).

190. It is well understood that achieving the Agenda 2030 will require the mobilization of significant financial resources, and it will also require significant support through non-financial means. Without active and strong labour market institutions, social dialogue and collective bargaining, meeting the decent work related goals and targets will prove very difficult. The evidence presented at the outset draws a strong correlation between weakened labour market institutions and increased inequality. Consequently, social dialogue will be a critical means of implementation in the coming years if the SDGs are to be realized. However, and as previously stated, this requires an enabling environment and an effective institutional framework underpinned first and foremost for the respect and protection of the fundamental freedoms and rights at work.

191. With respect to the monitoring of Agenda 2030, from national to global levels, social dialogue is important for two reasons. Firstly, in order to achieve goals and targets associated with the decent work agenda, social dialogue, as one of the pillars of decent work, must be promoted and utilized. This will require the collection of data directly assessing the existence and use of social dialogue at country level. At the same time, the national level review processes can benefit from the participatory and democratic nature of social dialogue when conducting the reviews. The follow up and review process of the 2030 Agenda aspires to be an inclusive and participatory endeavour, and social dialogue is a means to ensure that this is the case. This will be particularly important when it comes to reviewing areas which cover the decent work agenda.

192. In both implementation and monitoring, the role of the ILO, its tripartite constituents and its supervisory system, will be fundamental in the Agenda 2030 monitoring process. As the specialized agency of the UN on all labour related areas,

the ILO possesses the required attributes to support the realization of many of the SDGs.

"Leaving no one behind" means tackling Inequality

193. Reversing the trend of increasing inequality is as pressing a concern as ending absolute poverty. There are proven ways of combatting inequality which only need political will to be implemented, including the fight for tax justice, against tax havens. The 2030 Agenda has offered some hope that through the realization of decent work for all, a more equal society is possible. Labour market institutions, such as social dialogue, collective bargaining, and trade unions create more equal societies and support truly sustainable and inclusive development.

VII. Scientific and Technological Community

Introduction

194. The Scientific and Technological Community[19] (STC) greatly welcomes the adoption of "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", including at its core a framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our Community strongly supports the vision expressed in the Agenda that puts people and the planet at the centre, recognizing that human development, wellbeing, equity and environmental stewardship are inextricably linked. In adopting the SDGs, nations have acknowledged the new scientific knowledge that calls for a precautionary approach to ongoing Earth-system and societal changes.

195. Science and technology will play a critical role in achieving the successful implementation of the SDGs. Scientific knowledge provides the basis for evidence-based decision-making on sustainable development at all levels. Science informs the definition of indicators at global, regional and local levels. It is also fundamental for assessing progress, testing solutions, and identifying emerging risks and opportunities. Similarly, development and application of clean technologies is an indispensable part of the solutions to many sustainable development challenges. Agenda 2030 needs science, technology and innovation at every step; support for individual and institutional capacity-building in these areas will need to be much enhanced.

196. The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development has the essential role of providing the political leadership and guidance for action at the global level, impacting on actions at all other geographical scales. For assuming this role, the HLPF needs to focus on two key functions: reviewing progress in implementing the SDGs, and addressing new and emerging sustainable development challenges. To fulfil this broad mandate, the HLPF requires crucial input from science and technology. The STC is committed to support the HLPF in all its work, including specific efforts aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface.

[19] The Organizing Partners of the STC Major Group are: the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/scitechcommunity.

Ensuring an effective functioning of the new science and technology mechanisms endorsed in the 2030 Agenda

197. The STC strongly supports the two new science and technology mechanisms: (i) the multi-stakeholder Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), and (ii) the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR).

198. The TFM, based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration between Member States, the scientific community, UN entities and other stakeholders, comprises: a UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, a collaborative Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), and an online platform.

199. In order to strengthen the multi-stakeholder collaboration, the UN Secretary General has established a 10-Member Group[20] supporting the TFM which is comprised of representatives of the scientific community and other non-governmental stakeholders, including experts from the International Council for Science (ICSU), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA). The Group, working with the UN Interagency Task Team, is requested to contribute to the preparations of the STI Forum, support the development and operationalization of the online platform and provide briefings and other inputs to the HLPF.

200. Our Community fully supports the objectives of the TFM whose overall objective is to support building fit-for-purpose STI systems in support of implementing the SDGs at national, regional and global levels. The STI Forum should provide the opportunity for a regular high-level dialogue on major STI issues for SDGs between policymakers, scientists, technology and innovation experts, and representatives from other stakeholder groups, including the private sector. A central issue should be bridging the widening gap in scientific and technological capacity between developing countries, and developed and emerging countries. The TFM should be used to enhance North-South and South-South international cooperation on, and access to, science, technology and innovation, including knowledge and technology sharing.

A framework for global review

201. Members of the STC worldwide have been mobilized to contribute to and to participate in the first Multi-Stakeholder STI Forum (6-7 June 2016) which will focus on "realizing the potential of science, technology and innovation for all to achieve the sustainable development goals." Ensuring that no one is left behind, the Forum should include a discussion — including natural and social scientists, engineers, and other stakeholders — on best practices in co-designing priority STI agendas with those most in need of STI solutions, the most vulnerable and marginalized. The outcomes and recommendations of the Forum will be recorded in a Co-chairs' Summary to be communicated to the 2016 session of the HLPF. We urge governments and other stakeholders attending this session to give due consideration to these important science, technology and innovation issues.

[20] Members: Peter Bakker (WBCSD); Elmer William Jr Colglazier (AAAS); Myrna Cunningham (CADPI); Elenita Daño (ETC Group); Xiaolan Fu (Oxford University); Paulo Gadelha (Fiocruz); Heide Hackmann (ICSU); Romain Murenzi (TWAS); Nebojsa Nakicenovic (IIASA); Hayat Sindi (i2institute).

202. Another important science and technology related instrument endorsed in Agenda 2030 is the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) — an effective science/policy bridge. This Report was first called for in the outcome document of Rio+20 as a UN publication aiming at strengthening the science-policy interface at the HLPF. One prototype of the Report was prepared in 2014 by the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), and the first Report was developed in 2015 by UN-DESA in collaboration and consultations with the STC. The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) have organized substantive input into this process.

203. The STC strongly supports UN-DESA's multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach to preparing GSDR editions. The 2016 edition of the GSDR will be available for the 2016 session of the HLPF: in the process of preparing this edition, UN-DESA co-organized with the International Council for Science (ICSU) an Expert Group Meeting on "emerging issues and peer-review" (13-14 October 2015).[21] The Meeting attended by some 30 invited natural and social scientists and representatives from key-networks and organizations such UNESCO, Future Earth and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), and addressed two important issues for preparing future GSDR editions: what are appropriate approaches for identifying "emerging issues" and how to organize the peer review of the scientific knowledge presented.

204. The STC looks forward to the outcome of the consultation process conducted by the President of ECOSOC on the scope, methodology and frequency of the Report as well as its relation to the SDG Progress Report, the outcome of which will inform the 2016 session of the HLPF. The STC, co-organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), is fully committed to work with UN-DESA and other partners to enable an inclusive process in the contributions towards the GSDR and to make each edition of the GSDR a strong evidence-based instrument for policy-makers.

Enhancing integrated approaches in policymaking, implementation, monitoring and review

205. The STC has been specifically outspoken in referring to the 2030 Agenda as an "integrated agenda". Following an integrated approach to implementing the SDGs is first of all necessary as the economic, social and environmental dimensions addressed under each individual SDG must be addressed in an integrated, policy coherent manner. Second, there are significant interactions between most of the goals: interactions can be positive in terms of synergies or negative as possible trade-offs. Some of these interactions (e.g., "food-water-energy nexus") have been widely studied; others are less known. The greatest concern is that implementation of the SDGs at local, national and regional levels does not address possible trade-offs, for example on climate change, economic growth and energy. Indeed, one of the key findings of a "Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals"[22] by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science

[21] Report at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=1859&menu=1634

[22] ICSU/ISSC Report at: http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/review-of-targets-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-science-perspective-2015

Council (ISSC) found that there remain major challenges in ensuring an integrated approach and avoiding a siloed implementation of the goals.

206. Building on this review, ICSU and ISSC are working on the report "Understanding SDG Interlinkages and Coherence Relationships — A Science-Policy Perspective" which will provide an analytical framework to characterize the range of potential negative to positive interactions between goals and targets presented on a seven-point scale; and will present a set of examples of synergies and trade-offs to illustrate how the analytical framework and typology presented can provide a tool for policy coherence and prioritization. This tool which should in particular be useful for countries to develop an integrated framework for implementing SDGs at the national level. A preliminary version of this report will be at www.icsu.org.

Maximizing benefit from the data revolution in both developed and developing countries

207. With the start of the implementation of the SDGs, there is an urgent need to mobilize the data revolution for the benefit of all countries and all stakeholders. Many governments, private companies, researchers and civil society groups already benefit of the new world of data, a world in which data are bigger, faster and more detailed than ever before. But too many governments, scientific communities, and other stakeholder groups are excluded because of lack of resources, knowledge, capacity or opportunity.

208. The final report of the Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (November 2014) came very timely. The report delineates a comprehensive set of recommendations in four areas, namely: (a) develop a global consensus on principles and standards; (ii) share technology and innovations for the common good; (iii) provide new resources for capacity development; and (iv) address global coordination and other governance issues.

209. The STC has noted this report with great interest and urges the HLPF to follow-up together with the UN Statistical Commission on the comprehensive set of recommendations submitted by the Independent Expert Advisory Group. For its part, the international scientific community has been working on data management, access and policy, mainly via two ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies: the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and the ICSU World Data System (ICSU-WDS).

210. Established in 1966, CODATA, works to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to all natural and human sciences. The CODATA strategy recognises the historic transformations due to the 'data revolution' and identifies three priority areas of activity:

(a) Data Policy: supporting the implementation of data principles, policies and practices

(b) Data Science: advancing the frontiers of data science and its adaptation to scientific research

(c) Data Capacity Building: improving skills and the functioning of science systems (particularly in low and middle income countries — LMICs)

211. ICSU-WDS aims to promote universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, data services, products and information, with a view towards long term data stewardship across a range of disciplines. Furthermore, ICSU-WDS supports the establishment of trustworthy scientific data services and is committed to fostering compliance with agreed-upon data standards and conventions. Many datasets available through ICSU-WDS data repositories and data services are relevant to the monitoring of SDGs' implementation. Accordingly, and as a first step to support the GSDR effort, ICSU-WDS established a list of data providers which map to keywords relevant to the implementation of the SDGs and contributed to the 2015 GSDR's Chapter 8 *New Data Approaches for Monitoring Sustainable Development Progress: The Case of Africa*.

212. The two bodies work together also by convening the "SciDataCon" — a scientific research conference series — which will be held in September 2016 under the theme "Advancing the Frontiers of Data in Research"[23] in order to address a range of fundamental and urgent issues around the 'Data Revolution' and the recent data-driven transformation of research and the responses to these issues in the conduct of research.

213. Building on these activities, in December 2015, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and other three major international science organizations — the International Social Science Council (ISSC), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) — have issued an International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World[24] which has been referenced in the ECOSOC/CSTD Secretary-General's Report on "Foresight for digital development" (E/CN.16/2016/3[25]), and which is now open for endorsement by other scientific institutions/organizations.

Enhancing science and technology — means of implementation for the SDGs

214. As part of the means of implementation and enabling conditions for achieving the Agenda 2030, an enhanced partnership between policy-makers, practitioners, scientists and other sectors of civil society is key to jointly identify critical questions that need to be addressed; co-produce knowledge that effectively supports decision-making at different scales; and co-deliver solutions supported by scientific evidence.

215. There is a critical need for much enhanced harnessing of both science and technology for sustainable development. We urge developing and developed countries alike to scale up national science and technology activities and capacity targeted on sustainable development, and encourage stronger collaboration across scientific and policy communities. Governments should also enhance support for international cooperation in relevant scientific research, scientific and technological capacity building, knowledge sharing and innovation.

216. The UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda highlights some key areas through which the role of science can be

[23] www.scidatacon.org/2016

[24] Accord at www.icsu.org/science-international/accord; endorsement-form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LGAoUnS3vJ1-3yc5d-ZNlMyGoeKRNm4fbwXnL1qw78/viewform

[25] http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162016d3_en.pdf

enhanced in relation to the delivery of sustainable development in general and for the implementation of the SDGs specifically. These include:

(a) Increasing public expenditure on research and development, while avoiding subsidies for innovations that promote unsustainable products, production and consumption.

(b) Improving the level of participation of women and girls in science, technology (including ICTs), engineering, and mathematics.

(c) Enhancing support for developing countries, and LDCs in particular, to allow them to benefit from enhanced access to technologies for sustainable development.

(d) Developing technology partnerships based on multi-stakeholder, solution-driven initiatives. Ensuring access to the benefits of knowledge and technology for all, including the poorest, and creating the right incentives for sustainable practices, and for technological innovation needed for sustainable development.

Science and Engineering in support of the HLPF

The Rio+20 Future We Want document articulated the role of science in support of the SDGs, to be made part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the High-level Political Forum. Since then, the scientific and engineering communities are fully engaged and actively building the infrastructure to support the Agenda, building on decades of international research coordination. In 2012, two major new international initiatives — Future Earth and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) — were specifically designed to mobilise the scientific community in support of the SDGs. Combined with engineering organizations and other existing organisations, this provides a new international framework for policy support and engagement. In this framework:

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) and International Social Science Council (ISSC) provide international coordination and representation of science as part of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group — also co-organized with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).
- Future Earth provides international co-ordination for transdisciplinary research that supports the SDGs agenda.
- The SDSN synthesises and tests practical solutions from science and technology relevant to the SDG agenda.
- The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) advises the UN Secretary General.
- The WFEO Standing Technical Committees are concentrating on the 17 SDGs.

The above international scientific and engineering organisations/networks are ideally placed to work together in supporting the new science-policy-practice interface needed for the Agenda 2030. Specifically, this existing alliance of ICSU, ISSC and Future Earth, WFEO, and other potential partners such as SDSN and the SAB.

VIII. Education and academia stakeholder group

Leaving no-one behind: what do we mean and what does it entail?

217. 'Leaving no-one behind' is a principle at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda, as its goals and targets address all nations and peoples, emphasising inclusion, equality, equity, non-discrimination and respect for all human rights, regardless of gender, age, economic status, location, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, caste, sexual orientation, and residency status. It highlights how interconnected we all are and implies removing the political, economic, cultural and social barriers, as well as the power relations, that anchor a culture of violence, discrimination, repressive rule, commodification of life and peoples, disregard of human rights, and impunity and that prevent each one of us from actively participating in society and the fulfilment of our human rights, in an environment conducive to well-being and dignity.

218. As we start the implementation of the SDG Agenda, we must acknowledge that the Millennium Development Goals did not succeed in addressing inequalities; in fact, inequalities have grown worldwide. The guiding principle of leaving no-one behind is of particular relevance in a context of growing and multiple crises, including economic, environmental, health and conflict crises, all of which affect especially those that are already most marginalised. Leaving no-one behind must thus remain at the heart of the SDG Agenda as we move forward, ensuring structural change which leads to equality and inclusion is promoted.

219. SDG4 has a crucial role in promoting the achievement of the full spectrum of SDGs, considering social, economic and environmental development, as it promotes the enhancement of citizenship and the ability of all men and women, boys and girls, to achieve their full potential and actively participate in society. Education is a fundamental human right and an enabling right that promotes all other social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights. Furthermore, formal, non-formal and informal education and lifelong learning play a vital role in learning to do, learning to be, learning to live together and learning to transform self and societies towards the common good.

220. Leaving no-one behind is at the core of SDG4 through its emphasis on equitable and inclusive education, and entails that everyone must be able to access and complete a full cycle of quality and free education. This right of all students and learners to realise their full educational potential must start at birth and continue through all stages of life, including early childhood, primary education, lower and upper secondary education, higher education and beyond, in the context of lifelong learning. It implies that multiple forms of discrimination and violence should be overcome in and through education. It also implies that public education systems should be strengthened, with public resources financing public education, including those from ODA, and that privatisation trends, evidenced across the globe, which consolidate social segregation should be halted. In a context of growing crises and conflicts, the right to education must be especially ensured for those most affected: marginalised children, youth and adults.

Focusing on implementation: highlights and priorities

221. Ensuring no-one is left behind in years to come will require significant efforts at the global, regional and national levels. A crucial aspect will be the broad

dissemination of the Agenda at all levels, raising awareness and ownership of the SDGs as a common horizon and platform for action. This will be the basis to harness the necessary political commitment from Member States and the international community in ensuring all targets are met, through a spirit of collaboration among governments and all other stakeholders, and through inter-sectoral approaches that foster dialogue and coordination, in tune with the recognition of the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights that are reflected across the 17 SDGs.

222. Establishing global, regional and national monitoring and follow-up mechanisms of the SDGs, as well as ensuring the active participation of civil society at all levels, is critical, as will be detailed later. At regional level, the regional UN Commissions and other relevant actors, including civil society, will be important in flagging common social and educational issues that can be tackled through joint strategies. Fostering cooperation, exchange and learning among countries will help advance the principle of leaving no behind, based on horizontal relations where critical exchange of policy transfer can be upheld.

223. Furthermore, it will be important to bring national legislations and policies in line with the commitments made under the SDGs, whenever needed, including the putting in place of affirmative action to address structural, institutional and historical discriminations, disadvantages and exclusions. This will require the development of contextualised national and regional implementation strategies and plans, which should be carried out in a participatory manner, particularly involving those most marginalised and locally defined minorities. Given the breadth and depth of the SDGs, national implementation strategies could benefit from the identification of interim 'stepping stones' that serve as benchmarks of progress made between now and 2030.

224. Crucial to implementation of the SDGs at all levels, and to the core principle of leaving no-one behind, is the generation of information and knowledge that allows us to better understand all nuances of the challenges ahead, including causes and consequences. Development of robust disaggregated data will be necessary, as well as participatory research and collaboration with academia. Such production of data and research will allow for better definition of strategies that ensure inclusion of all groups and achievement of the various targets across all goals.

225. Regarding education, it will be important to retain coherence with the human rights paradigm, challenging those discourses of global education policy which reduce human beings to human capital and focus only on economic rates of return, and open the door to profit-making. Furthermore, it will be important to achieve relevant, inclusive and robust national and local education systems that mirror the societies in which they operate. To do so, education must respond to its community, rather than forcing its students and learners into a one-size-fits-all education model. In this sense, crucial to leaving no-one behind in education is acknowledging cultural diversity, moving away from homogenising patterns which deny diversities and identities which lead to multiple forms of discrimination and exclusions within education systems and beyond.

226. Quality education, that is inclusive and equitable, promotes the overcoming of multiple forms of discrimination and of violence and entails global citizenship and care for others and for the environment, all of which is paramount to ensure no-one is left behind. At the heart of quality education, we must have qualified and

motivated teachers and other education workers. Education workers must be recognised as agents critical to structural change which leads to equality and inclusion. It is thus a priority in the implementation of the SDGs to ensure teachers and other education workers are supported with decent salaries and working conditions, as well as continuous professional development, and representation in policy and decision-making. Mechanisms for social dialogue with teacher organisations must be established and/or strengthened.

227. Necessary resources must be made available for the accomplishment of the SDG agenda, including the full spectrum of SDG4 targets, to ensure quality and inclusive education for all — and especially for those hardest to reach, such as out-of-school children, youth and adult who cannot read or write, and all above-mentioned discriminated groups. Governments must allocate maximum available resources, and never less than 4-6% of GDP and 15-20% of public expenditure, as established in the Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted in Paris by Member States in November 2015. Only by guaranteeing free education can governments deliver their promise to leave no-one behind.

228. Increases in domestic funding should be made available through progressive tax systems, prevention of tax evasion and by ending harmful tax incentives for big business. Governments must also ensure that funds for education are not lost to corruption and inefficiencies. Similarly, ODA and international cooperation must increase, and donor harmonisation must be ensured. Furthermore, programmes of debt cancellation and relief must be put forward and the Principles of Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be put into practice.

229. Enhanced financial dedication to SDG4 will entail the necessary conditions for putting into practice the 12 years of free primary and secondary education, as determined in target 4.1. Tuition fees and other economic barriers related to access to education (such as transport, school materials and uniforms) have undermined economically disadvantaged groups having their right to education fulfilled. Focusing on concrete strategies that allow progressive realisation of free education will be paramount to ensuring no-one is left behind. As all human rights and SDGs are interdependent, it is also very important that improved living conditions of families and students be promoted.

230. Overall, ensuring no-one is left behind requires strengthened public education systems which provide quality, inclusive and equitable education and learning opportunities for all children, youth and adults. At the heart of this must be a valued education community (encompassing both students/learners and teachers/educators), adequate public financing, and transparent and participatory governance of the education system, including the management of schools and learning institutions. Marginalised sectors and those left behind must be represented in policy-making and evaluation processes at national, local and school levels. Privatisation of education, including most public-private partnership arrangements, discriminates against the poor, exacerbates inequality and promotes segregation based on socio-economic status, gender, location, and learning abilities. Governments must adopt clear and effective regulatory frameworks and enforce regulations on private sector engagement in education that will ensure non-discrimination, equity, and the right to education.

Civil society participation must be at the heart of SDG implementation

231. An enabling environment must be established to ensure the right to participation for citizens in debate and policy-making across the entire SDG agenda. Civil society representation and participation in decision-making, implementation, and evaluation processes must be institutionalised and backed by clear legislation and policies, including through established mechanisms at UN level and at national/state planning bodies. Such participation must be substantial, allowing for adequate speaking roles and voting rights. Local communities that are directly affected by decisions made, as well as marginalised sectors, must particularly be well-represented in such mechanisms and backed by adequate financing at all levels.

232. To ensure meaningful participation at each level, governments should allot resources for awareness-raising and capacity building of people and CSOs from all levels, including the grassroots. Local governments and implementing agencies should be centres for disseminating information and promoting policy development on the SDGs, and international cooperation to this end should be strengthened. Subsequent CSO participation in monitoring and reporting must be ensured from the very start, and citizen feedback should be valued and included by governments, within the fostering of a democratic culture that values dialogue. Furthermore, governments must adopt full disclosure policies that promote a culture of transparency, participation and accountability, and allow ordinary citizens and organisations access to all information.

233. Last but not least, governments must commit to ending immediately the criminalisation of activists and collective actors, which contradicts the spirit of CSO participation in debate and decision-making. In recent years there has been an unfortunate rise in regressive policies and legislation which have reduced the right to participation, as well as freedom of expression and association.

234. For the education community, the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group is in itself an important mechanism to foster CSO participation, establishing a channel of communication and way of engaging with SDG debate, awareness-raising, follow-up, monitoring, learning, and reporting. The participation of student and teacher representative organisations, particularly collective actors such as union bodies, will be crucial. Furthermore, online and community forums can be established, so that all people have a means to give voice to their perceived challenges, as well as potential solutions.

The importance of inter-sectoral approaches

235. Another core dimension to highlight is the importance of promoting an inter-sectoral approach in the implementation of the SDGs. Education has strong links with and impacts on other development concerns, including health, poverty eradication, income and employment, mobility, fertility, environmental protection practices, disaster mitigation, gender equality, appreciation of cultural diversity, peace, human rights, child protection, and political and community participation. In this regard, the education community must work with other sectors, and draw up a common crosscutting agenda on overall development that is coherent and complementary, and which ensures equity and social justice. An inter-sectoral approach to development planning must be advocated for with governments at the

national and local levels. Existing fora and networks which seek to do this work should be nurtured and built on.

236. Furthermore, sharing good practice, lessons learned and research findings across the different constituencies and stakeholders, consolidating and expanding on new alliances and partnerships, should be practised regularly, leading to increasingly integrated and coordinated actions at all levels. It is important that the education community works hand-in-hand with other sectors towards the implementation of the full SDG Agenda, and collectively establish national and regional CSO platforms for inter-sectoral SDG follow-up and evaluation. Inter-sectoral analysis between targets and goals across the Agenda, based on existing and forthcoming indicators at all levels, can be produced if data capture and knowledge-sharing is cognisant of this coherent approach to working, and of the crosscutting nature of education in particular.

How to tackle follow-up and review?

237. Finally, we share some reflections regarding follow-up, review and accountability mechanisms that are needed to ensure no-one is left behind in the implementation of the SDG Agenda. We reiterate the importance of ensuring the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in these processes, giving CSOs from all continents due space and recognition, in particular assuring that most marginalised groups are heard and taken into account. An important aspect in this context is offering participation in all UN official languages; the English-centred processes conducted during the negotiation and adoption of the SDGs greatly limited broad participation and it is strongly felt that a different approach should be taken to ensure no-one is left behind.

238. Reporting and review must be evidence-based, and research and regular collection of disaggregated data will allow for accurate analysis which can illuminate a path forward. All States must ensure data is collected on the situations of marginalised communities.

239. Citizen data, produced through consolidated processes, should be given due recognition when monitoring progress, and 'shadow' or stakeholder reports should be considered legitimate and important instruments. Mechanisms such as policy watches, public audiences and Special Rapporteurs should also be utilised. Regarding SDG4, a dialogue between UN monitoring mechanisms and the Global Education Monitoring Report must be secured.

240. Furthermore, reporting and reviewing should be regular, predictable and fully transparent, using language that is accessible to all, and placed in the public domain for consultation and verification. This includes transparent access to financial information that pertains to SDG goals' implementation, giving visibility to those areas which receive fewer resources, as is constantly the case for youth and adult education and literacy. Overall, the spirit of these processes should be learning-based, where findings are useful for governments to further SDG implementation and reorient priorities, strategies and actions.

241. Reporting and reviewing must be in line with existing human rights standards and treaties, including ICESCR, CRPD, CRC, CEDAW and CERD, and build on their experiences, including that of the Universal Periodic Review and Human Rights Committees.

242. Work on indictors must be considered 'in progress' and be open to revisions and adjustments, acknowledging their twin natures of being political and technical, and ensuring they be improved to fully reflect the spirit, breadth and depth of the SDG Agenda. Regarding education, an additional global indicator on completion of free education at primary and secondary level would strongly help both measure progress and keep governments accountable to that which has been established in target 4.1; indeed, as a community we feel that such an indicator is fundamental to ensuring that no-one is left behind.

Civil society: working together to realise the SDGs

243. The fledgling Education and Academia Stakeholder Group currently encompasses grassroots groups through to international federations. For this response we sought the inputs of a network of stakeholder organisations, which themselves represent diverse voices at national, regional and international levels. Respondents participated in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, or Portuguese, and this report synthesises the responses of over sixty groups.

244. Education is a crosscutting goal and foundational human right; it is the shared belief of the respondents to this consultation that quality, inclusive and equitable education is the basis to ensure that no-one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. To realise this vision, resources must be increased, sustainable, and reliable; good quality, disaggregated data must be available; and educators and learners must be involved in the decisions and policies which affect them. Fundamentally, and across all goals, civil society must be involved in the development of indicators, follow-up, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; this role must be institutionalised in decision-making processes.

IX. Persons with disabilities

Introduction

245. Persons with disabilities comprise an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or one billion people, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries and are overrepresented among those living in absolute poverty. Persons with disabilities often encounter discrimination and exclusion on a daily basis. This means, in particular, pervasive exclusion from development programmes and funds, as well as all areas of economic, political, social, civil and cultural life, including employment, education and healthcare.

246. Persons with disabilities were not referenced in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and as a result were excluded from many important development initiatives and funding streams around the world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes persons with disabilities and has thus opened doors for their participation and recognition as active contributing members of society: who must not face any discrimination or be left out or behind.

247. Persons with disabilities should be recognized as equal partners, and be consulted[26] by Governments, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders. Out of the 169 targets across the 17 Goals, seven targets have an explicit reference to persons with disabilities. Further, all Goals and targets are applicable to persons

[26] As required by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Art 4(3).

with disabilities by simple virtue of universality, which applies to all persons, and the overarching principle of "leave no one behind".

248. Persons with disabilities strongly believe that only by utilizing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as a guiding framework in implementing the SDGs, will it be ensured that exclusion and inequality are not created or perpetuated. This includes institutional, attitudinal, physical and legal barriers, and barriers to information and communication, among other such barriers.

Goals 1-5: The unfinished work of the MDGs

249. The aim of creating the SDGs was to take on the unfinished work of the MDGs, but go much further in aspiration. In particular, SDGs 1 to 5 address the most fundamental issues in a person's life: the basic needs which all people require, are enshrined in human rights laws and inherent to every human being for a dignified life. Statistics show that denial and exclusion of these rights leaves persons with disabilities disproportionately affected.[27] In particular, persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than peers without disabilities, including less access to education, worse health outcomes, and higher poverty rates.[28]

250. The UN has acknowledged the links between poverty and disability.[29] Poverty may increase the risk of disability through malnutrition and inadequate access to education and health care. Poverty is also both a cause and outcome of institutionalization and forced treatment, and of denial of the right and opportunity to make large and small decisions in one's own life.[30] Persons with disabilities may face barriers to accessing social protection when information is inadequate, inaccessible or not shared, welfare offices are physically or sensorially inaccessible, or design features of particular programmes do not take into account necessary reasonable accommodations.[31]

251. Between 93 million and 150 million children are estimated to live with disabilities[32] and millions of these children have been denied the right to an education. Currently children with disabilities are the most excluded in society: an estimated 90% of children with disabilities in the developing world do not attend school.[33,34] Additionally, a far larger number of students with disabilities drop out of elementary education due to barriers and do not progress to secondary and tertiary

[27] World Report on Disability, World Health Organisation and World Bank, 2011
[28] *Ibid*
[29] 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', UN General Assembly Resolution, 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1, at para. 1.
[30] See, for example, 'Poverty and Intellectual Disability in Europe', Report by Inclusion Europe, at P. 41, accessed from http://inclusion-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SocInc_EUPovertyRreport.pdf
[31] See, for example, Autism-Europe's Response to the Proposal for a European Accessibility Act, at P. 8, accessed from http://www.autismeurope.org/files/files/ae-position-paper-accessibility-act-1.pdf
[32] UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities, http://www.unicef.org/sowc2013/
[33] Ibid.
[34] Out-of-School Children Initiative http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_61659.html

education. Accessible learning environments and supports must be provided to enable students to achieve their educational potential.[35]

252. Persons with disabilities are agents and beneficiaries of development, and the value of their contribution to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society has likewise been acknowledged at the highest level.[36] To achieve this, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must be included in all phases of implementation, including planning, design, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up processes.

253. Recommendations:

(a) Introducing measures and policies to ensure that persons with disabilities, including women,[37] children,[38] youth, older persons and indigenous persons with disabilities, are protected from poverty and benefit equally from mainstream poverty alleviation and wealth-creation programmes, which should contribute to the implementation of disability-inclusive social protection systems and measures in line with the CRPD;[39]

(b) Eliminating laws, policies and practices such as institutionalization, forced treatment and denial of legal capacity that segregate persons with disabilities, as well as those from underrepresented groups, from society, and reinforce such persons' personal and economic dependency on others;[40]

(c) Making all levels of existing healthcare and social protection systems inclusive, and public healthcare policies, programmes, facilities and information accessible by persons with disabilities, and based entirely on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, including provision of disability-related extra costs, financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective and affordable medicine, assistive products and vaccines;[41]

(d) Introducing measures, through devising longer-term inclusive education plans[42] at global, national, regional and local levels, to ensure that all children with disabilities, including intellectual, psychosocial and developmental disabilities, are included within the mainstream educational system in line with CRPD provisions. Such measures must also ensure complete free, local, equitable and quality accessible primary and secondary education; ensuring access to quality early

[35] UNESCO 2015 Global Monitoring Report: *Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges* http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2015/education-all-2000-2015-achievements-and-challenges

[36] 'Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for Persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond', UN General Assembly resolution, 17 September 2013, A/68/L.1

[37] CRPD and A/RES/61/106, at Art. 6

[38] CRPD, Art. 7

[39] This recommendation should be seen as cross-cutting across all articles of the CRPD

[40] In line with CRPD Articles 5, 6, 12, 14, 15 and 19

[41] In line with UCRPD Articles 10, 11, 23, 25 and 26

[42] See 'Futures Stolen: Barriers to Education for Children with Disabilities in Nepal' Report by Human Rights Watch, at P. 72, accessed from https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/nepal0811ForWebUpload.pdf. and WFD & EUD (2015) Submission to the Day of General Discussion on the right to education for persons with disabilities — http://wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/WFD-and-EUD-submission-to-day-of-general-discussion-on-education.pdf

childhood development, including pre-primary education, promoting and using accessible communication methods, including assistive technologies and languages inter alia sign languages;[43] and equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational, business and tertiary education, including university;[44] and

(e) To facilitate the above recommendation, it is necessary to recruit teachers, instructors and trainers with disabilities, and train all teachers in inclusive practices, including those relating to language and communication, through teacher education programmes that focus on the pedagogy of education and inclusion. This requires training on the understanding and application of inclusive practices, and reasonable accommodations and individual support that facilitate access to knowledge,[45] in line with the CRPD.[46]

Goals 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 Realizing through an enabling environment the full potential of persons with disabilities

254. Evidence suggests that persons with disabilities and their families are more likely to experience economic and social disadvantage than those without disabilities. The World Report on Disability[47] outlines that households with persons with disabilities are more likely to experience material hardship including lack of access to safe water and sanitation.

255. Persons with disabilities are also at heightened risk of fuel poverty, whereby having to cut down energy consumption, or to go without completely, to save money.

256. The exclusion of persons with disabilities from employment opportunities can also result in dramatic consequences. Working-age persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than persons without disabilities, be lower paid, have fewer promotion prospects and less job security. It means that national economies face additional costs in having to support unemployed persons with disabilities. According to the ILO, the higher rates of unemployment and labour market inactivity among persons with disabilities — due to barriers to education, skills training and transport — result in a needless loss of 7 per cent of national GDP.[48]

257. On an individual and community level, income earned from productive employment can substantially mitigate the incidence of extreme poverty among persons with disabilities and their families. Access to a decent and safe sustainable livelihood, which includes stable social protection, employment and microfinance, is a fundamental right for persons with disabilities and should be actively supported by governments.

---

[43] CRPD Article 21, Article 9, Article 2

[44] In line with CRPD Article 24

[45] 'Educating Teachers for Children with Disabilities, Report for UNICEF, 2013, at P. 28, accessed from http://worldofinclusion.com/v3/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/UNICEF-Educating-Teachers-for-Children-with-Disabilities_Lo-res.pdf

[46] Example deaf children have the right to specialist deaf and/or bilingual education if this is their choice, in line with CRPD Art 24

[47] World Report on Disability, World Health Organisation and World Bank, 2011 http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf

[48] Buckup — The price of exclusion: The economic consequences of excluding people with disabilities from the world of work (2009)

258. Many built environments, including housing, transport and information systems are not yet accessible to persons with disabilities. Lack of access to transportation is a frequent reason for a person with a disability being discouraged from seeking work or prevented from accessing healthcare or education. Information is rarely available in accessible formats, including sign languages, and there are access barriers for basic products and services such as telephones, television and the internet.

259. Recommendations:

(a) Ensure equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation facilities for persons with disabilities; in line with CRPD Article 28, e.g. access to accessible latrines, bathing facilities and water points;

(b) Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and efficient energy services for persons with disabilities, including the use of alternative energy facilities where warranted by the local situation, limiting in particular the frequency of power cuts; in line with CRPD Article 28, e.g. access to electricity and/or affordable alternative green sources of energy;

(c) Remove barriers to employment for persons with disabilities through mechanisms including non-coercive legislation and regulation, tailored interventions, internships and apprenticeships, vocational rehabilitation and training, self-employment and microfinance schemes, social protection, and working to change discriminatory attitudes, especially in rural areas;

(d) Guarantee access to formal credit sources such as bank loans and micro-finance for start-up businesses, whose interest rates take into account the additional costs related to disabilities, helping them to avoid additional credit costs from informal sources;

(e) Promote universal design and remove barriers to public accommodation, transport, information, and communication to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in education, employment and social life; in line with CRPD Articles 9, 11, 19, 21 (e), 24, 27, 28 and 30, e.g. access to ICTs, in order to enable communication, promotion of sign languages and forms other than traditional written and verbal communication; and

(f) All such investment and infra-structure development should be guided by the principle of ecologically sustainability and universal design.

Goal 13: Working together to protect our planet

260. The effects of climate change, including natural disasters, food insecurity, conflict, and refugee situations, make persons with disabilities disproportionately affected. During such emergency situations, persons with disabilities experience increased challenges with separation from family, loss of assistive and mobility devices, and barriers to accessing information. Additionally, the rate of disability increases during an emergency due to direct trauma, illness from poor living conditions, a lack of trained and skilled staff, and the breakdown of health services, an increase in psychological stress and lack of rehabilitation services.

261. Persons with disabilities are often overlooked throughout the disaster management cycle and especially during relief operations, as well as throughout conflict and displacement, even though they are more marginalized in such events.

The UNISDR survey found that 70 per cent of persons with disabilities participating indicated they had no personal preparedness plan and only 17 per cent knew about any disaster management plan in their community.[49]

262. Recommendations:

(a) Climate resilience programmes and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and policies should make disability a core, cross-cutting theme and must be included in the implementation of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 so that they are both implemented in line with CRPD Articles 11, 21 and 25;

(b) Particular focus must be on the leadership, knowledge and suggestions of persons with disabilities living in disaster-prone countries, in low elevation coastal areas or small island developing states to make sure that goals, indicators and development policies are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities in all phases of DRR;

(c) The immediate post-emergency phase and early reconstruction period should be driven by the "build back better" principles, stressing the opportunity to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities through accessible and inclusive investment and decision-making processes; and

(d) The observations and recommendations of OHCHR in relation to Article 11 of the CRPD should be noted and implemented.[50] In particular, temporary shelters and other constructions must be fully accessible, information and communications, health and education provision must be accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities.

263. The High-Level Political Forum is a unique platform for stakeholders to engage and contribute to the post-2015 agenda. The necessary transformation aimed by the post-2015 agenda can only be accomplished through truly participatory and inclusive mechanisms, which can also improve collaboration, coherence and coordination between all actors concerned.

264. Local and subnational governments are keen to play a more active role in the definition, implementation and follow-up of the transformational post-2015 development agenda. Hence, we urge nations to ensure concrete mechanisms and modalities to enable a true collaboration and coordination of all levels of governments beyond the concrete outcomes of the United Nations post-2015 Summit and permeate with other relevant global processes.

Goals 10, 16, 17: Reaching the farthest behind first

265. Most States are making significant investments to develop frameworks and national plans within their countries as well as in their international development strategies. However, governments often ignore or inadvertently leave behind persons with disabilities. All persons with disabilities — and particularly those from underrepresented groups — in rural and urban areas, including persons with psychosocial, intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as children,

[49] http://www.unisdr.org/archive/35032

[50] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2016) Thematic study on the rights of Persons with Disabilities: Article 11 of the CRPD http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/31/30

women, older persons and indigenous persons with disabilities — must have equal opportunities to contribute to sustainable development if the SDGs are going to be realized.

266. The mandate of 'leave no one behind' will only be achieved when all international treaties, national laws and policies are inclusive, eliminate discrimination, and provide for reasonable accommodation, and when discriminatory laws and practices, in particular allowing forced treatment, institutionalization, and restriction of legal capacity are abolished.

267. Recommendations:

(a) There is a need for global, regional and national data collection, capacity building and disaggregation of data by disability. In addition we are calling that Member States recognize and integrate the Washington Group module short set of questions into their national censuses, labour force surveys and other household surveys. This will require all persons with disabilities to be registered at birth; all persons with disabilities to be included in and have access to public services, all persons with disabilities to be represented in key decision-making bodies and processes;

(b) Governments should ensure the provision of equality training to civil servants, teachers and health and social workers at all levels and in all sectors, in an effort to reduce disability-based discrimination. Governments should also establish accountability mechanisms and sanctions for failure to act against discrimination and exclusion;

(c) As an urgent priority, there must be a major reduction of instances of persons with disabilities being subjected to violence and abuse, in particular women and girls with disabilities; and

(d) Justice, law and order institutions must be empowered to apply the normative standards of the CRPD so as to end impunity for rights violations. Legal systems must be accessible so persons with disabilities can actively promote and defend their rights and actively participate in justice processes.

Conclusions

268. The inclusion and the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all phases of implementation is critical, not only to ensure that they are not left behind, but also because only they are the true experts when it comes to their complete inclusion in society. Through consultations and by partnering with persons with disabilities, governments will receive technical assistance, capacity building and access to data, which are essential to achieving inclusion and realizing the overarching principle of leaving no one behind.

269. Bringing persons with disabilities explicitly into mainstream development discourse will not only benefit us, it will enable the world to realize that there is immense untapped potential to transform the world into a better place for all people.

X. Volunteer groups

270. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without full engagement of individuals and communities. This important lesson learnt from the Millennium

Development Goals is now reflected in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, which is universal, transformational, holistic and people-centred, and will leave no one behind.

271. Acknowledging that more traditional means of implementation need to be complemented by participatory mechanisms that will facilitate people's engagement, the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda explicitly name Volunteer Groups as key actors in their own right among the means of implementation.[51]

272. We need people to be part of identifying the problems, and to be part of building the solutions. We should focus efforts on addressing the structural causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, rather than just providing short-term humanitarian assistance to those affected.

273. Existing data or understandings cannot be relied on alone to identify who is most likely to be excluded or left behind. Within all groups, sectors, institutions and parts of society there are those who are more likely to be discriminated against or excluded, but these often remain 'unseen'. Deep contextual, social, political, gender and economic exclusion analysis is needed to identify the who, how and why of exclusion in different sectors, institutions and localities. Without this level of analysis, interventions will not address the structural or root causes of exclusion or tackle hidden assumptions and stereotypical beliefs. Real change will not be possible.

Implementation

274. Volunteers will complement the delivery of a range of public services across sectors and will play an important role in extending the reach of these services to the poorest and most marginalised, by strengthening the capacity of the existing mechanism and extending it beyond the capability of the formal systems. They are key actors who have the capacity to engage people at the local level in planning, monitoring and implementing the new framework in a universal and holistic manner. Volunteering helps move people from being passive recipients to being actively engaged in the development processes that affect their lives, and the lives of their families and communities.

275. However, volunteer groups are more than implementers. Volunteering for development is both a means and an end to the creation of healthy, vibrant societies and the achievement of the SDGs. Research has shown that countries with high

[51] Para. 45 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: "We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organisations, volunteer groups and others."
Para. 10 of the AAAA: "Multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, [...] volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments, and support the achievement of the sustainable development goals, in particular in developing countries."

levels of volunteerism are more economically and socially vibrant, and better placed to meet global challenges.[52]

276. International volunteer organisations have found that volunteering can serve as a key source of reconciliation and reconstruction in divided societies, particularly where it cuts across ethnic, religious, age, income and gender lines. Building and restoring trust should be key policy initiatives in post-conflict situations, where volunteering between communities can encourage solidarity and co-operation.[53] It acts as an effective catalyst for sustainable, people-centred development, contributing to the elimination of inequality between and within countries, and between men and women.

277. In the Secretary General's synthesis report 'The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet', he states that "as we seek to build capacities and to help the new Agenda to take root, volunteerism can be another powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation. Volunteerism can help to expand and mobilize constituencies, and to engage people in national planning and implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. And volunteer groups can help to localize the new Agenda by providing new spaces of interaction between governments and people for concrete and scalable actions."

278. Volunteers have and will continue to bring voices of people into relevant debates to identify problems and define solutions. The My World Survey brought in 7 million voices of people from the most remote parts of the world. Volunteers took care to translate the survey into different tribal languages and took it to rural communities to make sure that even the remotest and often most marginalized communities had a voice in the global discussion. That same way of giving people voices can now be extremely important in the process of localizing the SDGs. Volunteers ensure that things get done even in situations that are extremely complicated, complex or where people are very difficult to reach.

Measurement

279. Within the context of the post-2015 development debate, a broad recognition was underlined among member states, civil society, the private sector, and the UN system — first, that the availability of relevant, disaggregated data is crucial to achieving of the SDGs, and second, that such quality data does not currently exist on the scale needed. Data is crucial to evidence-based decision-making, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

280. It is not just the selection of indicators that is important but also who collects the data, where the data comes from, the scale at which the data is collected (such as at the individual or household level) and how the data is interpreted and disseminated.

281. Volunteers can support the 'data revolution' required by the new Agenda and help measure progress on SDG implementation through collecting data, providing expertise and supporting participatory forms of planning and monitoring, and helping to disseminate results. In this regard, volunteerism is a form of civic

[52] State of the World's Volunteerism Report (UNV, 2011)

[53] *Roundtable on Volunteerism and Social Development. 2000. The Hague, Netherlands, 2000. Below the Waterline of Public Visibility. UN Volunteers.*

engagement that can strengthen the accountability between governments and citizens in the next decades.

282. Volunteers possess a wide range of skills and expertise and have a proven track record in terms of measuring success of different aspects of the Millennium Development Goals. Trained volunteers have been able to collect and communicate disaggregated data as they are able to reach the most marginalized when collecting data, for example, during household surveys.

283. It is important that the SDGs propel actions focused on marginalised groups and those that are affected by poverty and inequalities. At the national level governments should commit to disaggregate data for those groups identified globally **and** any further groups that are at risk of poverty, exclusion and inequality within that particular national context. It is obvious that data about groups facing multiple disadvantages are often missing. Too often women, minority ethnic groups, disabled people and other groups are systematically excluded from data collection, in part because they are not involved in shaping data collection systems. Participatory approaches to data collection, however, can actually serve to amplify voices of the marginalized and provide them with the impetus to take action.

284. It is important that civil society and stakeholders, such as volunteer groups, are recognized as legitimate sources of expertise and information for SDG measures of progress, and thus as valuable actors in the follow-up and review process.

285. The data revolution is crucial to the success of sustainable development for innovative monitoring of the SDGs. Statistical capacities in many developing countries are inadequate to carry the weight of what a data revolution might require. In this regard, innovative partnerships with actors such as volunteers and volunteer groups will be essential to harness desired data results.

286. Data produced by civil society is complementary to data produced by States and International Organizations, especially when it comes to the role played by civil society itself working with communities and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Recommendations

287. The HLPF intends to build on the strengths and experiences of existing national, regional and international processes that promote inclusive participation in the follow-up and review of the Agenda. It should provide opportunities and access for everyone to participate in decision-making processes and in the conceptualization of policies and programmes that affect their lives.

288. For the most vulnerable and marginalized groups to meaningfully participate in the follow up and review of the SDGs, the HLPF should set up an accessible and transparent platform that is truly open to all stakeholders, which would allow them to continuously being engaged on the ongoing conversation and offer concrete ways to facilitate their engagement.

289. The HLPF should also strongly support the national and regional level reviews making sure that those groups have a seat at the table, which will allow them to bring attention to their experiences to their governments.

290. In addition, the HLPF should serve as a space where stakeholders can share experiences and best practices on how to engage the most vulnerable and marginalised in the implementation and reporting.

291. Finally, the HLPF should urge member states and stakeholder groups to include in their annual reviews, evidence on their actions undertaken to involve the most marginalised to make sure no one is left behind.

292. Exclusion is perpetuated by a lack of opportunities for participation. The SDGs will only achieve its leave-no-one-behind objective if they are implemented with the meaningful engagement of people, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable, as well as their organizations, through formal and informal processes. This takes time and requires government, donors and development actors to go to where the people are. Therefore engaging volunteers that are formed from the bottom up is crucial to leave no one behind.

293. It is also critical that the HLPF prioritises climate action. As noted in the Report of the Panel of eminent persons, the challenge of climate change could prevent us from meeting "all or any of our goals". Implementing the commitments made in Paris is essential if we are to reduce the risk of increasingly large numbers of people being left behind. The poorest being most vulnerable to its impacts, climate change acts as an accelerator of existing inequalities. Volunteer Groups have a key role to play in adaptation and mitigation as well as increasing resilience in communities and countries most at risk of being left behind, and in ensuring inclusive development in the face of climate change.

XI. Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)[54]

Introduction

294. The 2016 HLPF is one of the first opportunities to test the sincerity and political will of member states to honour commitments made in September 2015. Critically, it will set a precedent to determine whether the promise that follow up and review mechanisms will "promote accountability to our citizens (and) support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda"[55] is honoured. It will test the ability of states to 'address challenges' and 'emerging issues' that threaten the achievement of sustainable development and the promise to renew the Global Partnership between states as well as to support, value and respond to civil society partnerships and movements.

295. This submission is made by the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism[56] (RCEM). As an inclusive and transparent civil society

[54] Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all subregions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and has been set up under the auspices of ESCAP and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on the post-2015 as well as other development related issues/processes. As an open, inclusive, and flexible mechanism, RCEM is designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs in the region, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance a more just, equitable and sustainable model development. Contact: visit www.asiapacificrcem.org Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism.

[55] A/RES/70/1, paras 72 and 73

[56] Development Justice was articulated through the Bangkok Declaration and remains the unifying lens for the platform.

platform expanding on the major groups, the RCEM has established a model of regional partnership capable of both enhancing accountability to citizens and supporting the most important ingredient for sustainable development — local, powerful social movements dedicated to advancing development justice. We continue to assess efforts to achieve sustainable development through the lens of 'Development Justice', the model demanded by members of the RCEM that requires Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Gender and Social Justice and Accountability to the Peoples.

296. The submission aims to provide inputs to the HLPF in 4 areas:

(a) Assessment of progress toward the theme of ensuring no-one is 'left behind'

(b) Identifying future HLPF review themes in order to address the systemic/ emerging barriers that result in groups being 'left behind'

(c) The role of regional civil society partnerships to ensure no-one is left behind

(d) Progress toward meeting regional commitments contained in Agenda2030

Assessment of progress toward the theme of ensuring 'no one is left behind'

297. To achieve a sustainable, inclusive world by 2030 we must recognise that exclusion is the result of deliberate policies, practices and decisions designed to enrich and empower a few at the expense of others. Communities are not forgetfully 'left behind'. Instead, some are catapulted ahead through global economic and political systems that depend on exclusion and exploitation.

298. Since governments committed to producing a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, at the Rio Summit in 2012, inequality has deepened, new record temperatures have been set, the refugee crisis has worsened and further evidence that the wealthiest individuals and corporations are using all means to hide wealth and influence political decisions has been revealed.

299. Rising Inequality — In 2015 inequality between the richest and the rest of the world accelerated at a rate even faster than predicted to the point that 1% of the world now own 50% of the world's resources and wealth and 62 people own as much as the poorest 50%.[57] Even these statistics are an underestimate — it doesn't include the estimated $32 trillion dollars held in offshore bank accounts. In Asia, economic growth in recent years has channelled more wealth and power to High Net Worth Individuals. The wealth of the HNWI population in Asia-Pacific in 2014 increased 11.4% to US$ 15.8 trillion. Their net wealth now outstrips the total wealth of LDCs in the region. Inequality both directly robs billions of people of livelihoods and resources, leaving the poorest further behind, it depends on and results from the ability to capitalize on the world's finite resources and concentrating decision making in the hands of a tiny obscenely rich minority.

300. Increasing emissions and Global warming — With 2015 the hottest year on record[58] and further evidence that warming may be occurring faster than

[57] Oxfam, 'An Economy for the 1%' 2016. https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/An-economy-for-the-1-percent.pdf

[58] NASA — http://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-noaa-analyses-reveal-record-shattering-global-warm-temperatures-in-2015/

anticipated,[59] it has been alarming to see increasing approvals of fossil fuel mining. For the Asia Pacific region, the most disaster prone region in the world, this has had devastating effects. While all regions and people are impacted by climate change, it is clear that the effects are felt more deeply by women, those living in poverty, rural, people with disabilities, Indigenous and excluded groups.

301. **Increasing displacement** — UNHCR reported that the number of displaced people hit an all-time high in 2014, at 59.5 million people with numbers likely to grow.[60] In Asia and the Pacific, the urban population grew faster than in any other region. More than half of the world's mega-cities (13 out of 22) are now found in Asia and the Pacific. Internal migration is the main factor behind urban growth.

302. Moreover, the Syrian war is emblematic of the cause, impact and responses that 'leave people behind'. More than 11 million people, half the country's pre-war population, have been killed or forced to flee their homes.

Identifying future HLPF review themes in order to address the systemic/emerging barriers that result in groups being 'left behind'

303. Identifying and tackling systemic drivers of inequality must be central to the annual review of Agenda 2030 to ensure the agenda is truly universal. Systemic drivers of inequality include neoliberalism, fundamentalisms, militarism and patriarchy, which are largely co-constituent of each other and could form the basis of thematic reviews. Themes should include:

304. Uni, Bi and Multilateral Economic, Financial and Trade Measures that impede Development Justice — Paragraph 30 of Agenda 2030 strongly urges states to *"refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries"*. Yet trade agreements that conflict with both Agenda 2030 and the UN Charter[61] were pursued immediately after the agreement was signed[62] and states continue to use the World Trade Organisation arbitration to prevent pro-poor and environmental protections.

305. Preferential trade and investment agreements require states to privilege capital over their Responsibility to Act in the interests of the citizenry. In addition to agreeing to broad legislative and policy changes that enable land, resources and knowledge to be dominated by foreign capital, they give multi-national corporations unprecedented and undemocratic powers to challenge national policies designed to advance environmental protections, human rights, fiscal policies, labour rights, affirmative action policies, public health and protections that guarantee public

[59] http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/07/clouds-climate-change-analysis-liquid-ice-global-warming

[60] UNHCR, Global Trends 2014: World at War, June 2015. http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html

[61] The UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable order stated that preferential trade agreements contravene both the supremacy clause in the UN Charter (103) and the state Responsibility to Act (R2A) to advance human rights, including the right to development. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IntOrder/Pages/Articles.aspx

[62] The Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement was finalized since the signing of Agenda2030 while negotiations for 3 other 'mega-agreements' continue. In the Asia Pacific region, as of February 2016, 5 framework agreements are signed, 64 have launched negotiations, 11 are signed but not yet in effect, 140 are signed and in effect, totalling to 220 with another 67 FTAs being proposed.

access to basic needs and services. In doing so, PTAs accelerate the power of the wealthiest, magnify existing inequalities and have been found to have a discriminatory impact on women,[63] Indigenous peoples,[64] people living with HIV or other illnesses, people with disabilities,[65] older people, rural communities, workers and those dependent on state support, living in poverty or those already 'left behind'.

306. Land and Resource distribution — Land tenure policies expose communities that are directly dependent on land and natural resources to risks of being 'left behind' and denied livelihoods. Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, landless, rural communities and subsistence farmers face increasing threats to their livelihoods and settlement due to eviction from land concessions awarded to corporations, large scale 'development' and infrastructure (including those conducted under the guise of 'green growth') and from climate change. Governments have pursued policies to attract investment from large corporate entities both domestically and internationally, to undertake projects on state owned "undeveloped" land that promise to bolster the economy and create jobs. Normally these projects involve large-scale plantations for the cultivation and processing of key agricultural commodities for export abroad, but they also include mines, hydroelectric dams, special economic zones, tourist resorts and other projects. Conflict emerges when the land is in reality occupied by smallholder subsistence farmers and/or Indigenous peoples. Often the process of relocation is violent as the farmers resist relocation and are forcibly removed by agents for the investors. For indigenous peoples, collective land and resource rights underpin their culture, identity and wellbeing.

307. Cross-border activity in real estate volumes grew by 334% from $65 billion to $217 billion between 2009 and 2015.[66] The wealthiest are buying up the world's real-estate and resources while the world's poorest are losing land and their livelihoods.

308. Militarism and conflict — By 2030 as many as half of the world's extreme poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.[67] Conflict, the presence of state and non-state armed forces and military spending are systemic drivers of inequality that cause affected populations directly and indirectly to be 'left behind'. The drivers of conflict increasingly intersect with core issues of Agenda2030 — resource scarcity, climate change, extreme inequalities and poverty.

---

[63] The United Nations Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (INWGE) contend that "Women tend to be more affected by the negative side- effects of trade liberalization" http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/trade/gender_equality_and_trade_policy.pdf

[64] The report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples contends that "investment clauses of free trade agreements and bilateral and multilateral investment treaties, as they are currently conceptualized and implemented, have actual and potential negative impacts on indigenous peoples' rights, in particular on their rights to self-determination; lands, territories and resources; participation; and free, prior and informed consent." http://unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org/site/index.php/en/documents/annual-reports/93-report-ga-2015

[65] Nine UN experts issued a joint statement expressing concern over the adverse impact of trade and investment agreements on human rights and specifically the concern that they negatively affect the rights of indigenous peoples, minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other persons living in vulnerable situations. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16031#sthash.9vOZ0jgP.dpuf

[66] http://www.savills.co.uk/research_articles/188297/198667-0

[67] www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview

Consequently, reducing militarism is both a driver and an outcome of inclusive, sustainable development. Stateless people and those who migrate from conflict zones are most likely to be forced into cheap, exploitable labour or trafficked into slavery like conditions. Within these populations, women, people with disabilities, children and the already economically marginalised face deeper risks and less ability to seek safe refuge. Given the recent political responses to conflict and asylum, a thematic focus on militarism and the drivers of conflict is required.

309. Corporate influence — It is increasingly evident that the interests of many trans-national corporations and the interests of 'people and planet' conflict. Of the largest economies in the world, 51 are now corporations. The revenue of the top 200 corporations exceeds the value of the economies of 182 countries combined. They have more than twice the economic power of 80% of humanity.[68] The UN Secretary General recognized that "a lack of clarity about additionality; a risk of misalignment of private sector and country priorities; and diminished transparency and accountability" make public-private partnerships a questionable way to advance sustainable development. Corporations are increasingly able to engage in manipulative price transfers, tax evasion and avoidance and avoid environmental and social responsibility. As state sovereignty and policy making power has been diminished and increasingly handed to the private sector, no corresponding system to ensure regulation and accountability of the private sector has emerged. This need to be addressed to ensure the 2030 agenda is not 'left behind'.

310. Patriarchy and fundamentalisms — A systemic driver of inequality can be found in ideologies that rigidly limit opportunities, participation and autonomy for some members of the population. Patriarchy — the belief that power and decision making naturally reside with some men, permeates lives, relationships and policies at the family, community, national and international levels. Fundamentalisms, whether cultural, religious, political or economic, similarly ascribe rigid beliefs about the roles and value of different groups of people. In doing so, they commonly focus on women's bodies, sexuality and decisions. When these ideologies shape policies and laws women, sexually and gender diverse groups, single or unmarried women, women human rights defenders are 'left behind'. While Goal 5 sets some important targets that measure some of the consequences of patriarchal policies, a more holistic review of the systemic causes of inequality as a review theme would allow the intersectional nature of the Agenda to be interrogated.

The role of regional civil society partnerships to ensure no-one is left behind

311. Procedural and recognitional justice[69] are crucial to ensuring that no one is left behind. It is very important that the institutional framework for follow-up and review — globally through the HLPF, and at all other levels, remains inclusive.

312. The RCEM came about as a result of lessons learnt through CSO engagement in the Major Groups system in the Rio+20 process. One major motive was to make engagement more strategic and inclusive. CSOs in the region decided to add eight additional groups[70] to the original nine Major Groups, because they felt the original

[68] https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/221-transnational-corporations/47211.html

[69] Recognitional justice means recognising all groups and identities as equal rights holders with the right to be represented

[70] Constituencies of urban poor, migrants, people with disabilities, older people, LGBTIQ, fisherfolk and HIV affected communities were added with flexibility to incorporate others.

nine groups no longer captured the diversity of civil society. The RCEM as such is designed "...to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels..." (Para. 16).

313. The founding resolution (A/RES/67/290) for the functions and decision making of the HLPF remains important to carve a constructive space for CSO involvement in the accountability functions of the HLPF and the regional forums. To make the resolution meaningful CSOs should not only be permitted to attend official meetings but must receive access to all official information and documents at the same time as governments. This is enable critical function, namely that CSOs to develop their own capacity to submit documents and present written and oral contributions, make recommendations and intervene in official meetings — not only raising red flags and reminding governments about the ambitions of the agenda, but also to provide robust and substantial thematic inputs as partners to development.

314. It will be important that the HLPF, through its mandate to mainstream sustainable development across the UN, works to equally institutionalise stakeholder engagement. With broader ownership of different parts of the agenda and strong civil society engagement threading the processes together, it will be easier to prevent the agenda from being left behind. Agenda2030 will be successful if it amplifies and connects movements based on development justice and other normative standards that are non-negotiables, such as stakeholder engagement, access to information, procedural and recognitional justice.

315. Despite clear progress in the Asia Pacific region in establishing a self-organised stakeholder group with strong collaboration from the ESCAP Secretariat, the recent APFSD sought to impose more restrictive measures on civil society. To realize the ambition of Agenda2030, resolution 67/290 must apply to regional process and engagement.

Leaving Regional Commitments Behind

316. Despite acknowledging the clear and critical role of regional bodies and regional cooperation (Agenda2030 includes the term 'regional' 33 times), a small number of governments are preventing those commitments from becoming a reality. Member states acknowledged "the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. Regional and subregional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level[71].

317. Member states committed to follow and review mechanisms at the regional level in four separate paragraphs (73, 77, 80, 81) and yet some states appear to be backtracking on that commitment. The outcome documents of the recent Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) lack ambition and fail to provide clarity on the ways that the regional review will enhance accountability (as promised in para. 73) nor on the process to establish the regional frameworks promised in target 1.b[72], target 2.5[73], target 11.a[74] and target 17.6[75] in 2030 Agenda.

[71] Para. 21.

[72] 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at ... **regional** ... levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies...

318. ESCAP's collaboration with the RCEM has been lauded as exemplary achievement within and outside the UN system. The HLPF should encourage other regional commissions to emulate and help establish such engagement mechanisms at regional levels which ensures full and complete, transparent and inclusive, and meaningful engagement owned and driven by the MGoS.

Recommendations on National and Global Review

319. On national reviews, the HLPF should encourage Member States to adopt a 'whole of society' approach in conducting national reviews, with the full and complete involvement of MGoS in a manner that is inclusive, transparent, and accessible and utilizes information and data accessed not only from the National Statistical Organizations but also through non-government sources. National Review reports must reflect the extent of participation and inputs of the MGoS, and must be subject to oversight of Parliaments and other relevant Institutions. The flexibility in devising the each country national strategies, institutions and choosing emphasis in pursuance of the SDG should not result in "cherry picking" of goals and targets. Member States should provide complete justification for any self-differentiation, with guidance from the HLPF.

320. On Global reviews, The HLPF must reiterate that voluntary reviews are meant to support national Implementation of Agenda 2030. The HLPF must propose elements of a road-map on how this gap-filling function of the HLPF will be addressed, to incentivize countries to make voluntary presentations. Besides demonstrating Member States' accountability to their citizens such presentations must also include their accountability for actions (including actions of their national agencies) affecting people and environment beyond national territories.

---

[73] 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants … through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at … **regional** … levels …

[74] 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and **regional** development planning

[75] 17.6 Strengthen **regional** and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation